

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

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No. 2116.—VOL. LXXV.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1879.

WITH TWO SUPPLEMENTS } SIXPENCE.
By Post, 6½d.



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN DECORATING OFFICERS ENGAGED IN THE AFGHAN AND ZULU WARS, AT WINDSOR CASTLE.—SEE PAGE 567.

BIRTHS.

On the 8th inst., at St. Margaret's, Cheltenham, the wife of John C. Gray, of a son.
On the 9th inst., at his residence, 84, Earl's Court-road, Kensington, W., the wife of F. A. Morse-Boycott, Esq., of a son.
On the 16th inst., at Penally House, Pembrokehire, the wife of William J. O. Holmes, Esq., of Monar, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 10th inst., at Newchurch, Radnorshire, by the Rev. David Vaughan, Rector, Arthur Beavan Dixon, only son of F. Seekamp Dixon, of Chelsea, and grandson of the late Major Samuel Beavan, of Tyn-y-cwm, Newchurch, to Anne Eliza, only surviving daughter of the late Samuel Beavan, Esq., of Glas-cwm Court, J.P. and D.L. for Radnorshire.
On Oct. 9, 1879, at St. Peter's, Eastern Hill, Melbourne, Victoria, by the Rev. J. H. Gregory, assisted by the Rev. Canon Handfield, M.A., A. George Dumas, Barrister-at-Law, to Emmeline Arnold Harper. No cards.

DEATHS.

On the 27th ult., at his residence, Derwent Villa, Blagdon-on-Tyne, George Heppel Ramsay, Esq., aged 88, J.P. for the County of Durham for upwards of forty years. Deeply lamented.
On the 15th inst., at St. Leonards-on-Sea, Charles Henry Dabney, Esq., of New York, aged 72, father-in-law of E. Heinemann, Esq., J.P., of Rotton Park, Sussex.
On the 15th inst., at Butterkrowle, Wandsworth, Surrey, in the 68th year of her age, Maria, the beloved wife of Geo. Dixon Longstaff, M.D. Friends will kindly accept this notice.
On the 10th inst., at Aqualate, Lady Boughey.

* * The charge for the insertion of Births, Marriages, or Deaths is Five Shillings for each announcement.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 27.

SUNDAY, DEC. 21.	
Fourth Sunday in Advent. St. Thomas, Apostle and Martyr. Shortest day. Morning Lessons: Isaiah xxx. 1-27, or Job xlii. 1-7; John xx. 19-24. Evening Lessons: Isaiah xxxii. or xxxiii. 2-23, or xxxv. 1-8. St. Paul's Cathedral, 10.30 a.m. (the Bishop's Ordination), the Suffragan Bishop of Bedford; 3.15 p.m., Rev. Canon Liddon; 7 p.m., Rev. E. F. Sampson.	Westminster Abbey, 10 a.m., 3 p.m. St. James's, noon, Rev. Canon Barry. Whitehall, 11 a.m., Rev. R. M. Blackiston; 3 p.m., Rev. Canon Erskine Knollys. Savoy, 11.30 a.m., Rev. Henry White, the Chaplain; 7 p.m., Rev. J. Wallis, Vicar of St. Andrew's, Stockwell. Temple Church, 11 a.m., probably Dean Vaughan, the Master; 3 p.m., Rev. A. Ainger, the Reader.
MONDAY, DEC. 22.	
Election of Common Councilmen for the City of London. Society of Arts, Cantor Lecture, 8 p.m. (Professor C. Graham on the Chemistry of Bread and Bread-making). Popular Concert, St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.	London Institution, 5 p.m. (Lord Reay on Social Democracy in Germany). Brown Institution (at the University of London), 5.30 p.m. (Mr. W. S. Greenfield on Recent Investigations on the Pathology of Infective Diseases; and on Tuesday).
TUESDAY, DEC. 23.	
West London Scientific Association, 8 p.m. Institution of Civil Engineers, 8 p.m., anniversary.	King's College School, distribution of prizes by General Sir R. Wilbraham, 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24.	
George, King of Greece, born 1815.	
THURSDAY, DEC. 25.	
Christmas Day, Morning Lessons: Isaiah ix. 1-8; Luke ii. 1-15. Evening Lessons: Isaiah vii. 10-17. Titus iii. 4-9. St. Paul's Cathedral, 10.30 a.m., Very Rev. the Dean, Dr. Church; 3.15 p.m., no sermon. Westminster Abbey, 10 a.m. 3 p.m.	St. James's, 11 a.m., Rev. Francis Garden, the Sub-Dean. Whitehall, 11 a.m., Rev. Dr. G. F. Maclear. Savoy, 11.30 a.m., Rev. Henry White, the Chaplain. Temple Church, 11 a.m., probably Dean Vaughan, the Master.
FRIDAY, DEC. 26.	
St. Stephen, the Christian Protomartyr.	Albert Hall Choral Society, 7 p.m. (Handel's "Messiah").
SATURDAY, DEC. 27.	
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist. Royal Institution, 3 p.m. (Professor Tyndall on Water and Air, first Christmas Lecture).	

THE WEATHER.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE NEW OBSERVATORY OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

Lat. 51° 28' 6" N.; Long. 0° 18' 47" W. Height above Sea, 34 feet.

DAY	DAILY MEANS OF				THERMOM.		WIND.		
	Barometer Corrected.	Temperature of the Air.	Dew Point.	Relative Humidity.	Amount of Cloud.	Maximum, read at 10 P.M.	Minimum, read at 10 P.M.	General Direction.	Miles. In.
December	inches	°	°	°	1-10	°	°		
	7.30-469	23.2	22.3	97	8	29.4	13.0	NE.	33 0'015
	8.30-481	34.5	28.6	81	9	37.8	29.0	N.W. N.	163 0'000
	9.30-525	30.4	30.4	1.0	9	34.4	25.9	N. S.W.	77 0'005
	10.30-460	33.4	31.1	92	3	35.3	28.6	S.W. N.E.	91 0'000
	11.30-580	25.2	25.2	1.0	5	32.5	19.3	N.W. W.	49 0'005
	12.30-658	33.7	30.4	89	10	36.3	30.0	W.S.W.	62 0'005
	13.30-708	33.6	33.1	98	10	36.6	30.9	N.W. S.W.	40 0'000

The following are the readings of the meteorological instruments, for the above days, in order, at ten o'clock a.m.:-

Barometer (in inches) corrected	..	30.488	30.484	30.536	30.440	30.598	30.654	30.731
Temperature of Air	..	16.9°	34.8°	32.7°	34.0°	29.3°	32.7°	31.2°
Temperature of Evaporation	..	16.6°	33.6°	31.6°	33.6°	29.3°	31.7°	33.7°
Direction of Wind	..	N.E.	N.W.	S.	S.W.	N.E.	W.S.W.	S.W.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 27.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
7 32	8 28	8 25	8 59	10 10	10 10	10 11

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, 1879.

ST. JAMES'S GRAND HALL, REGENT-STREET AND PICCADILLY.

MOORE and BURGESS MINSTRELS' FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SERIES

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EVERY AFTERNOON AND EVERY NIGHT,

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DORÉ'S GREAT WORKS.—"ECCE HOMO" ("Full of divine dignity,"—The Times), and "THE ASCENSION," "CHRIST LEAVING THE PRÆTORIUM," "CHRIST ENTERING JERUSALEM," with all his other Great Pictures.—DORÉ GALLERY, 35, New Bond-street. Daily, 10 to 6. 1s.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, South Kensington, will be OPEN to the Public on FRIDAY, DEC. 26, between the Hours of Ten and Four. At all other times the Gallery is strictly CLOSED on Fridays for cleaning and alterations, but open FREE all the rest of the week. By order, GEORGE SCHIAPPE, Keeper and Secretary.

CRYSTAL PALACE PICTURE GALLERY (Twenty-fourth Season) is NOW OPEN, with many NEW WORKS by celebrated English and Foreign Artists. Descriptive Catalogues, including the VICTORIA CROSS GALLERY, price 6d. The yearly sales average £7000. Apply to Mr. G. W. Wass, Superintendent of the Gallery.

INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS. The FOURTEENTH WINTER EXHIBITION is NOW OPEN, from Ten till Six. Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d. H. F. PHILLIPS, Secretary. Gallery, 53, Pall-mall.

THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT-GARDEN.—Messrs. A. and S. GATTI beg to announce that their Second Grand Christmas Pantomime, entitled SINDBAD THE SAILOR, will be produced on Boxing Night, DEC. 26. Morning Performances, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, commencing Saturday Morning, DEC. 27, at Two. Box-Office open daily from Ten to Five. No booking fees.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—MERCHANT OF VENICE, EVERY EVENING at Eight o'clock. Shylock, Mr. Irving; Portia, Miss Ellen Terry. MORNING PERFORMANCES EVERY SATURDAY till further notice. Seats booked Six Weeks in advance.

CANTERBURY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Under Royal Patronage.—Best Entertainment in the World. Variety Artists at Eight. Bottom, the King of the Cannon; and Anna, at 9.30. PERI OF PERU, an original Musical Comedietta, at Ten. Miss Nelly Power, supported by Misses Alice Holt, Broughton, Powell, Aguzzi, and the Corps de Ballet. Prices, 6d. to 2s. 2s.

MASKELYNE and COOKE.—Christmas Programme. EVERY EVENING at Eight; Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at Three and Eight.—Mr. MASKELYNE will introduce his amusing Extravaganza SEN-NACHERIB, in Two Parts, and SCREVIN'S in Two Pieces, embracing new Starlin; Illusions and Surprising Mechanical Effects, and including one or two of the most prominent features of the popular scenes "Elixir of Life" and "Zach." As in all holiday seasons the Egyptian Hall overflows with visitors, it is advisable for all who can to attend before Boxing Day. Seats are now being booked for weeks in advance.

CHRISTMAS LECTURES.—ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN, Albemarle-street, Piccadilly, W.—PROFESSOR TYNDALL, D.C.L., F.R.S., will deliver a Course of Six Lectures (adapted to a Juvenile Auditory) on "WATER AND AIR," commencing on Saturday, Dec. 27, at Three o'clock, to be continued on Dec. 30, 1879, and Jan. 1, 3, 6, 8, 1880. Subscription (for Non-Members) to this Course, One Guinea (Children under sixteen, Half-a-Guinea); to all the Courses in the Season, Two Guineas. Tickets may now be obtained at the Institution.

NOTICE.

As Christmas Day falls on Thursday this year, next week's ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS will be published on Wednesday morning; and no Advertisements for that Number can be received after Six o'clock on Monday afternoon, the 22nd inst.

Office, 198, Strand, W.C.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1879.

The news from Afghanistan is of a decidedly serious tenour. General Roberts, unable to cope advantageously with the increasing and advancing forces of what we are compelled to designate "the enemy," after three days' fighting, each more severe than the last, but each resulting in the victory of our troops, has deemed it prudent to abandon the Bala Hissar, and to concentrate his force within the Sherpur cantonments. He is drawing reinforcements from the line of his communications at Gundamuk and Jellalabad, and troops are being dispatched by the Viceroy of India to fill up the vacancies thereby caused. "Excitement among the tribes," says Lord Lytton, in one of his telegrams, "is expected to spread." We should be sorry to draw from these items of intelligence more gloomy inferences than they will fairly warrant. The Indian Forces in Afghanistan, British and Native, will doubtless be able to maintain the defensive against all assau't. They are from five to seven thousand strong; they are within lines which may be rendered all but impregnable; they are well provisioned for four or five months; their line of communication is not yet closed; reinforcements may be expected to reach them within a comparatively brief interval, and General Roberts may then deem it safe and expedient to resume the offensive, and, possibly, to disperse the gathering force of hostile tribes. But what a prospect do these facts bring before us of the future task of the Indian Government in the pacification of Afghanistan! What draughts upon the resources of our Eastern dependency! What ever-recurring uncertainty in the condition of its new conquest! Scarcely a week ago all was reported quiet, and—we grieve to say it—British vengeance upon the perpetrators of the Cabul massacre was being carried into effect without mercy. Now the seeds have been sown of interminable enmities, and the blood upon our hands, in view of many of the Afghan Tribes, can never be washed off. We may subdue the country, we cannot govern it. We may hold it by military force, but we cannot administer its civil affairs. The country will be a constant drain upon India, and, ultimately, upon England. It is time that we understood the nature and extent of the policy which dictated the invasion of Afghanistan. At present, we confess, we cannot see into the heart of it, and hence, perhaps, it appears to us to bode ill for the prosperity of British India.

There is news, too, of fighting in another quarter of the globe. Things are not yet settled in South Africa, though, for the present, Zululand remains quiet. Mirosi's Mountain stronghold has been captured by the Colonial Forces under Colonel Bayley. The chief himself was killed and about seventy of his followers. The loss on our side was, happily, small, and, as a result of the affair (which appears to have been skilfully conducted, but the difficulties of which seem also to have been greatly exaggerated), is spoken of in South Africa as bringing to a close "Frontier Native Disturbances." This may be true, so far as the Cape Colony is concerned. But the Transvaal is still agitated by the repugnance of the Boers to British Rule, and Secocoeni awaits upon the Frontier the operations of Sir Garnet Wolseley, which are likely enough to find a similar termination to those of the Colonial Troops against Miroisi.

In fact, mischief seems to be in the air all over the world. Nearly everything, in its turn, gives cause of offence. One is reminded by the state of nations of that constitutional ill-health of the body which renders the most insignificant abrasion of the skin a festering sore, and which neutralises the most efficacious remedies that can be applied. The temper of humanity just now, at least so far as it can be discerned from the policy of Governments, is out of joint. There is a dislocation somewhere which makes even healthy movement painful. Repose—if repose can be anticipated—is the only influence that can cure the pervading and increasing evil. We are all getting touchy. In one way or another, we all appear to be intent upon straying from the straight path. France, Spain, Austria, Germany, Russia, Turkey, and even Belgium are passing under what the population of each regards as a crisis. We are not without our own troubles, and, in the anticipation of most, we have not yet seen the worst. Of course, a severe winter—of which, it may be, we have only yet received an earnest—should it set in and last long, will find out our weak places, and

aggravate our sufferings. Such disturbing processes are part of the discipline of States. They are not altogether novel; they are not even extraordinary; they make a large portion of the history of every sublunary community. But they do not always assume an epidemic form. Now they are here, now there. Lately, however, it has been difficult to say where they are not. That they have checked much evil which would have otherwise ensued we do not doubt. That they have succeeded in instilling some useful lessons may also be believed. But even such convictions as these scarcely reconcile even the uncomplaining to passing and active evils.

Amid all that is sombre about and around us one fact is calculated to encourage us—we had almost said to cheer us—we mean the unquestionable revival of trade. To what extent this bright phenomenon may reach—how much of it may be evanescent, or how much is solid and permanent, we will not presume to say. *Dum vivimus, vivamus* is not an inapt motto for our present commercial condition. We have to make the best of what is given to us—to strike the iron while it is hot. Without doubt, even trade will be called upon to struggle with difficulties and to face renewed dangers. But “while there is life there is hope.” A long period of insensibility has come to a close. Even winter itself has not proved the fallaciousness of our hopes. If we might but see “peace and goodwill” among men, we might draw nigh to Christmastide with tranquil anticipations.

THE COURT.

The Queen, at a private investiture of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, held last week at Windsor Castle, knighted Colonel C. K. Pearson, and invested him with the ribbon, badge, and star of a Knight Commander of that order; and Major-General Crealock received from her Majesty the insignia of Companion of the same order. After the ceremony the Queen's dinner party included Princess Beatrice and Prince Leopold, the Marchioness Dowager of Ely, the Hon. Horatia Stopford, the Hon. Emily Cathcart, Lord Elphinstone, Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Ponsonby and the Hon. Lady Ponsonby, General Sir Daniel Lysons, Major-General Hope Crealock, Major-General F. Marshall, Colonel H. Rowlands, Colonel Sir Charles Pearson, Colonel W. E. M. Reilly, Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. England, Lieutenant Colonel C. M. Clarke, Captain Bradshaw, R.N., and Captain Campbell, R.N.

The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh arrived at the castle yesterday week on a visit to her Majesty. Prince Alfred, and Princesses Marie, Victoria, and Alexandra of Edinburgh had previously arrived. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, came to London in the afternoon, and visited the Duchess of Cambridge at St. James's Palace. Her Majesty travelled from and to Windsor by special train on the Great Western Railway. The Duke of Cambridge arrived at the castle. Her Majesty's dinner party included the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, the Duke of Cambridge, the Marchioness Dowager of Ely, Lady Emma Osborne, Baron and Baroness Königsegg, Lord Elphinstone, and Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Ponsonby.

The Queen, with the Duchess of Edinburgh and Princess Beatrice, walked out on Saturday. The Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Leopold came to London. The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Alfred and Princesses Marie, Victoria, and Alexandra of Edinburgh left the castle for London. The Prince and Princess of Wales and Princess Louise of Lorne, with the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Leopold, arrived at the castle in the evening.

Sunday was the eighteenth anniversary of the death of the lamented Prince Consort, as well as the first anniversary of the death of her Majesty's beloved daughter, Princess Alice, Grand Duchess of Hesse. The Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Strathearn, Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, Princess Louise of Lorne, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold went to the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore, where a special service was performed in the morning by the Dean of Windsor. Sir George Elvey and the choir of St. George's Chapel were in attendance. A cast of the recumbent statue of the Grand Duchess of Hesse and her daughter Princess Marie, by Mr. Boehm, had been placed in the mausoleum. By her Majesty's commands, the mausoleum at Frogmore was opened from one to half-past three p.m., for the members of the household and the servants resident within the castle and their families to visit it. Her Majesty's permission to visit the mausoleum was extended to many of the residents in Windsor and its neighbourhood, and also to various tradesmen in the town, with their families. The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh left for town shortly after two o'clock. The Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Louise of Lorne, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold attended Divine service in the afternoon in the private chapel of the castle. The Rev. T. Teignmouth Shore, Incumbent of Berkeley Chapel, Mayfair, officiated. The Dean of Windsor dined with her Majesty and the Royal family.

The Prince and Princess of Wales left the castle at twenty minutes past ten on Monday morning for London. The Queen held a Council, at which were present Prince Leopold, the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, the Earl of Beaconsfield, the Right Hon. R. A. Cross, and the Right Hon. W. H. Smith. The Earl of Beaconsfield, the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, and the Right Hon. R. A. Cross had audiences of her Majesty. General Guzman, Minister from Guatemala, was introduced to an audience of the Queen, and presented his credentials; and the Hon. C. Vivian was also introduced to an audience and kissed hands on his appointment as Minister-Resident at Berne. Her Majesty's dinner party included Prince and Princess Christian, Princess Louise of Lorne, Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, the Marchioness Dowager of Ely, the Earl of Beaconsfield, Lord Elphinstone, and Rear-Admiral Sir E. Commerell.

Princess Louise of Lorne and Prince Leopold came to London on Tuesday and visited the Westminster Hospital. Their Royal Highnesses returned to the castle to luncheon.

The Queen, accompanied by the members of the Royal family, has taken her customary out-of-door exercise, and has visited the Dean and Mrs. Wellesley and Lord Rokeby at the Deanery, Windsor.

The Earl of Beaconsfield left Windsor Castle on Wednesday. The Empress Eugénie, who arrived at Windsor Castle on a visit to the Queen on Tuesday evening, went with her Majesty and Princess Beatrice to the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore on Wednesday morning, and afterwards left the castle for Chislehurst.

The Queen, Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, and Princess Louise left Windsor Castle at ten o'clock on Thursday morning for Osborne, where the Court will remain for the Christmas holidays.

Mr. Belt has submitted to the Queen a bust of the late Prince Louis Napoleon; and Mrs. Butler the sketch of her picture of the defence of Rorke's Drift.

The Marchioness Dowager of Ely has succeeded Lady Abercromby as Lady in Waiting; and Mr. J. F. Campbell, of Islay, has succeeded Colonel the Hon. C. Lindsay as Groom in Waiting to her Majesty.

The Queen has telegraphed to Sir F. Roberts requesting him to make known to the troops engaged in the action before Cabul her admiration of their gallantry, and her sympathy for the officers and men wounded in action.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, before leaving Marlborough House for Windsor Castle, where they arrived on Saturday evening, received the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh and Prince Alexander of Hesse at luncheon, and, accompanied by Princess Louise of Lorne, Prince Ferdinand of Glücksburg and Prince Louis of Battenberg, went to the Lyceum and the Prince of Wales's Theatres. The Princess and Prince Louis of Battenberg were present one afternoon at the Maskelyne and Cooke entertainment at the Egyptian Hall. The Prince was also present at a meeting of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, at their offices in Hanover-square. The Prince and Princess, who arrived at Marlborough House from Windsor Castle on Monday morning, left in the afternoon for Eastwell Park, Kent, on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh. The Prince has sent presents of game for the use of the patients in the Norwich, Great Yarmouth, and other Norfolk Hospitals. Colonel Teesdale has succeeded Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke as Equerry in Waiting.

The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, during their short stay in town, went to St. James's Theatre, and the Duchess inspected the needlework at the Ladies' Work Society in Sloane-street. The Duke and Duchess, after visiting the Queen at Windsor, left Clarence House on Monday for Eastwell Park, where they have been entertaining company during the week.

Prince and Princess Christian returned to Cumberland Lodge yesterday week from visiting Mrs. Gerard Leigh at Luton Hoo. During the visit Prince Christian, with a large party, had excellent shooting; and Mrs. Leigh entertained her Royal guests one evening with private theatricals, at which many of the county families were present.

The Duchess of Connaught, accompanied by the Duke of Connaught, distributed the annual prizes to the successful competitors of the London Irish Rifles (the 28th Middlesex). The ceremony took place yesterday week at St. James's Hall. Among the prizes were a diamond ring and a gold brooch and earrings, given by his Royal Highness. The Duke wore his uniform as Honorary Colonel of the regiment. A guard of honour, consisting of one hundred rank and file, under the command of Captain Inglis, was in attendance. The Duke of Connaught and Prince Leopold were on Saturday installed as Knights of Malta at the Masonic Rooms of the “Supreme Council of the 33rd Degree.” Prince Leopold has consented to preside at the ninety-second anniversary festival of this institution, to be held in May next.

The Duke of Cambridge returned to Gloucester House yesterday week from visiting Lord and Lady Alington at Criche, Dorset.

Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar and Countess Dornberg, with Prince Ferdinand of Glücksburg and Prince Louis of Battenberg, attended a fancy-dress ball yesterday week at the Assembly Rooms, Southsea. The company numbered 500, and the dresses were rich and picturesque.

His Excellency the Turkish Ambassador and Mdle-Musurus returned to the Embassy on Saturday last from spending a few days with Earl and Countess Delawarr at Buckhurst. His Excellency the German Ambassador and the Countess Marie Münster have returned to the Embassy on Carlton House-terrace from visiting the Earl and Countess of Rosslyn at Easton Lodge, Dumfrow. The Duke and Duchess of Bedford and the Ladies Russell have returned to Woburn Abbey.

Countess Cowper gave a county ball at Panshanger on Thursday night. The Earl and Countess of Rosslyn gave a ball on the 10th inst., at Easton Lodge, Essex, in celebration of the eighteenth birthday of Miss Maynard, Lady Rosslyn's eldest daughter, who on this occasion made her debut. Above 300 invitations were issued. The band of the 2nd Life Guards was in attendance.

The marriage of Viscount Lewisham and Lady Mary Coke, youngest daughter of the Earl of Leicester, was solemnised on Thursday morning at Holkham church.

It is announced from Dublin that the Lords of the Treasury have sanctioned the scheme submitted to them by the chiefs of the several divisions for the reorganising of the official staff of the Chancery and Law Offices.

The report by the Liquidators of the City of Glasgow Bank was issued on Wednesday night. It states that during the year there has been realised from the assets of the bank £4,850,000, and from calls made on contributors £4,450,000, together £9,300,000. There have been paid in dividends to creditors £7,396,940. They will soon make a further payment, bringing the dividend up to 15s. per pound.

It is stated that the Attorney-General has granted his *fiat* for a writ of error in the case of the Tichborne Claimant, upon doubts whether the Court had the power to pass a sentence of penal servitude upon each separate count of the indictment, and whether the sentence ought not to have been one of seven years' penal servitude. This period has now expired, and if the point of law should be successful, the Claimant will be at once restored to liberty.

At Wednesday's meeting of the School Board for London a letter was read from Sir Charles Reed, who is still on the Continent, thanking the board for having re-elected him as chairman. The organisation of the Bye-laws and the Industrial Schools Committees again engaged a good deal of the time of the Board. The result was the passing of a resolution suspending for six months action on the resolution agreed to at the previous meeting, and authorising the constitution in the meantime of the two Committees in the ordinary way and with their former duties. A gift of £200 from Mrs. Charles Buxton and Mr. Sydney Buxton towards a scholarship for boys was announced. The clerk of the Clothworkers' Company had written that it was the intention of that Company to continue the grant of four scholarships of an average value of £30 per annum, tenable for four years; and he hopes before midsummer to be able to announce the grant of an annual scholarship of the same value for the benefit of girls. The Board adjourned over Christmas, till the 7th of next month.

THE QUEEN AND HER OFFICERS.

Our front-page Engraving is an illustration of the scene in the White Drawing-Room of Windsor Castle on Monday week when her Majesty personally decorated with the insignia of her Order of the Bath six newly-appointed Knights Commanders and twenty-four Companions of that Order, most of whom have earned these honours by their conduct and service in the late Afghan and Zulu Wars. The Knights were Commissary-General Sir Edward Strickland, Lieutenant-General Sir Samuel Browne, Major-General Sir Michael Biddulph, Sir Henry Drummond Wolff (Civil Service), Rear-Admiral Sir Francis Sullivan, and Colonel Sir Owen Tudor Burne. The gentlemen invested with the dignity of C.B. were Colonel Glyn, 24th Regiment, Colonel Elgee, R.A., Colonel Walker, Scots Guards, Colonel C. K. Pearson, late 3rd Buffs, Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Lindsay, R.A., Colonel Blyth, late 40th Regiment, Colonel R. B. Chichester, Colonel W. Stirling, R.A., Deputy-Surgeon-General Hendley, Captain Evre Massey Shaw, London Fire Brigade, Major-General Newdigate, Captain R. Bradshaw, R.N., Colonel Drury Lowe, 17th Lancers, Colonel Whitehead, 58th Regiment, Captain Fletcher Campbell, R.N., Lieut.-Colonel Welman, 99th Regiment, Lieut.-Colonel Pemberton, 60th Rifles, Lieut.-Colonel Tatton Butler Brown, R.A., Lieutenant-Colonel Parnell, 3rd Buffs, Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield Clarke, 57th Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel J. North Crealock, 95th Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Harness, R.A., Commissary E. W. H. Webb, and Surgeon-Major Cuffe. Two others, Major-General H. W. Palmer, 90th Regiment, and Lieutenant-Colonel Gilbert, 13th Regiment, were kept from attending by illness. The Queen was accompanied by their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein. Among the guests of her Majesty present on this occasion were Lord and Lady Chelmsford, General Sir Charles Ellice, Quartermaster-General, and Colonel Sir Evelyn Wood, V.C. The officers who had served in the Zulu War were the last to be presented to her Majesty. In our Illustration, which is from a sketch by an eye-witness, Colonel Pearson, who commanded the garrison in the defence of Ekowe, is seen kneeling before the Queen, who is in the act of fastening the Cross of the Order of the Bath to the breast of his coat. Among those who appear here waiting for their turn are Colonel Drury Lowe, Lieutenant-Colonel Harness, R.A.; Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, who commanded a brigade from the time the relieving force for Ekowe was formed to the end of the war; Lieutenant-Colonel North Crealock, who was Military Secretary to Lord Chelmsford throughout the campaigns of 1878 and 1879, never absent from his chief a single day; Commissary Webb, and Surgeon-Major Cuffe, whose services in Zululand have not been forgotten. The Queen was attended by the Duchess of Wellington and Lady Abercromby, with the Gentleman in Waiting and the Master of the Household. On the next day, her Majesty personally decorated with the Victoria Cross three other officers, Lieutenant-Colonel W. Knox Leet, 13th Light Infantry; Captain E. P. Leach, R.E.; and Lieutenant Reginald Hart, R.E., with Corporal W. Allan, 24th Regiment, and gave medals to four soldiers.

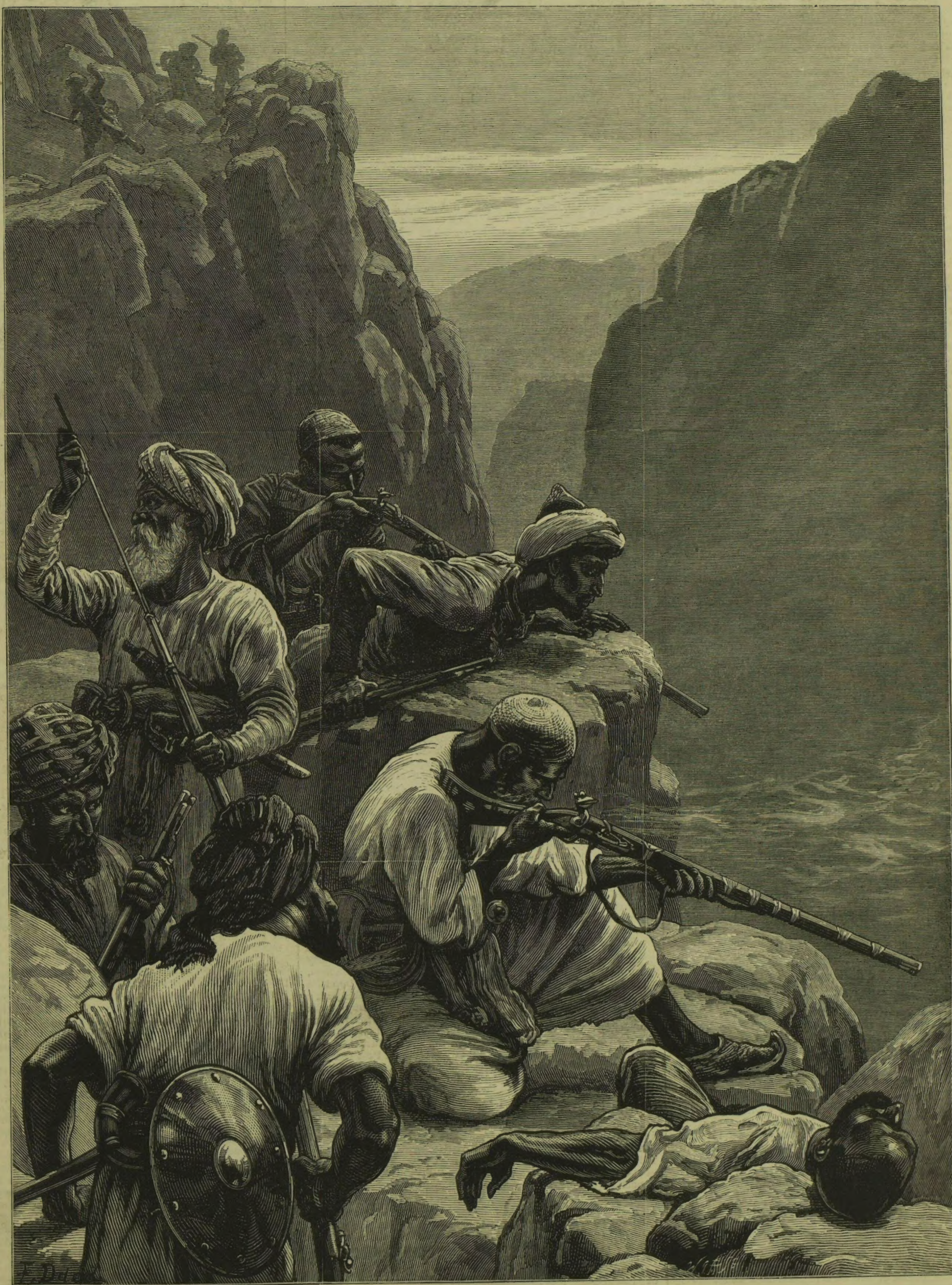
THE SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.

Smithfield, to the younger generation of Londoners and Christmas visitors to London, is little more than a name. They have read in history that the Protestant Martyrs were burned there; in the cruel reign of Queen Mary, and they may have heard likewise, from their fathers, how, in the kind reign of our beloved Queen Victoria, cattle and sheep were sold there, and slaughtering was practised by the butchers in yards and sheds around this East Central place of metropolitan traffic. But it is only the middle-aged man who has a personal remembrance of the great live-meat market that used to be held in Smithfield on the site of the present greater dead-meat market, before the City Corporation provided a more suitable place for that business in the open grounds between Holloway and Camden Town. The Smithfield Club, however, being an association of graziers, cattle-breeders, cattle-dealers, and carcase-butchers, with owners of property and commercial men interested in this commodity of flesh meat, to promote the breeding and fattening of sheep and oxen for human food, still derives its name from the old locality of the London wholesale trade. Its yearly Exhibitions, as may be remembered, were formerly held in Baker-street, at the West End, which seemed a sort of concession to fashionable society, as if country squires who were staying in London could not be expected to come far out of their way. The great Agricultural Hall at Islington was built partly for the accommodation of this and other periodical or occasional shows, as of horses and dogs, which would be attractive to gentlemen from the agricultural districts. Here it was, in the usual course, on the Monday and following days of last week, that the eighty-second annual cattle show of the Smithfield Club was held; and our readers cannot wish us to repeat the stereotyped phrase, “with success equal to any that has preceded it.” The truth is, that any comparison would be more or less fallacious without a most precise and accurate knowledge of technical and statistical details, which we have no pretension to understand; so, leaving all that to him whose “talk is of bullocks,” we simply invite the reader, in company with the Artist of our Sketches, to stroll through the Cattle Show for a few minutes, and to observe the humours and manners of people there assembled. They are portrayed in a variety of acts and attitudes; dressing up the beauties of the show with an elaborate toilet; admiring, judging, photographing, almost fondling, those magnificent confections of living flesh and fat, “bovine, ovine, and porcine,” as a certain reporter used to say; the beasts have their glory and the profitable brutes their praise. “Breeding in all its branches” is to be the honoured toast of the evening, notwithstanding any little disappointment “after the awards;” and it is not till the Christmas week that the butcher's knife will inflict “the irony of fate” upon the proudest specimens of thriving animal gluttony that wallow in the pens and stalls of this most pleasing and promising Exhibition. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, following the example of his late Royal Highness the Prince Consort, visited the Smithfield Cattle Show; and we hope that the well-managed farm at Sandringham will be prosperously conducted in this and all other departments of stock and produce.

Intending exhibitors from the United Kingdom to the Melbourne International Exhibition are reminded that the last day for receiving entries is Dec. 31, at the offices at the Agent-General for Victoria, 8, Victoria-chambers, Westminster.

The First Lord of the Admiralty presided on Tuesday evening at the festival of the Warehousemen and Clerks' Schools, held at the Cannon-street Hotel. The result of an appeal made by the right hon. gentleman was a list of subscriptions amounting in all to over two thousand guineas, including fifty guineas contributed by himself.





THE AFGHAN WAR: HILL-MEN ATTACKING A CONVOY.—SEE PAGE 570.

THE AFGHAN WAR.

We regret to say that very bad news of the British Army in the occupation of Cabul has reached us this week. A formidable rising of the people around Cabul, joined with the late Amcer's troops which had rallied at Ghuzni, has recaptured the commanding positions on the heights above the capital, fighting several days against detached British forces, which were not, upon the whole, sufficient to resist their junction and further progress, obliging General Sir F. Roberts, last Sunday, to abandon the city, and to collect his small army in the Sherpur cantonments, two miles out of Cabul; but there seems to be no fear that he will be unable to defend himself in this position. The city population is supposed to have risen against the British authority, as none of our troops remained in the city, and the fortified precinct of the Bala Hissar was abandoned before.

The following communication, by telegraph, dated last Monday from Cabul, has appeared in the *Times*, and seems the clearest attempt to summarise the important events of the last few days:—

"General Roberts has known for some time that he had to face the likelihood of several gatherings of malcontents. One of these, which had its origin in the neighbourhood of Ghuzni, and was supported by the preaching of some noted fanatical mollahs, took substance near Maidan. Another was in Kohistan, a third in Zaimukht, and the last in Logar. As these gatherings menaced the peace of the country, General Roberts determined to take action. General Baker, therefore, marched on the 9th with four mountain guns, five troops of the 5th Punjab Cavalry, 450 men of the 92nd Highlanders, and 450 men of the 5th Punjab Infantry, taking such circuitous routes, by Char-Asiab and across the Cabul river, as would place him behind the Ghuzni gathering at Maidan and cut off the retreat upon Ghuzni. General Macpherson, with a squadron of the 9th Lancers, a squadron of the 14th Bengal Lancers, four guns, a mountain battery, the 67th Regiment of Foot, 900 men of the 3rd Sikhs, and the 5th Goorkhas, marched in the direction of Urghunde on the Ghuzni road, with orders, by an appearance of timidity and hesitation, to draw on the Ghuzni insurgents, who were known to have a desire to make a junction with the Kohistan people. He was then to interpose between the two bodies and prevent their junction, and either defeat the Ghuzni insurgents or drive them back on General Baker. On the 10th inst. General Macpherson had an action with the Kohistan insurgents, whose movements for a junction were quicker than those of the Ghuzni men. He easily drove them back northward, with only Colonel FitzHugh wounded. He was then joined by General Roberts, who upon his arrival ordered that General Macpherson should move the next day along the road towards Urghunde, and that Brigadier-General Massy, with a small force of Horse Artillery and Cavalry, should co-operate with him by the valley road. The Ghuzni insurgents, if not beaten by General Macpherson and Brigadier-General Massy, would then be thrown back. Brigadier-General Massy, who advanced too confidently through a difficult country, intersected with water-cuts and studded with walled villages, suddenly found himself confronted by the Ghuzni insurgents in great force. Loth to retire as prudence dictated, he opened fire with his guns, but without checking the advance of the enemy. The cavalry charged in order that time might be given for the guns to be extricated, but the enemy were too numerous and the charge was repulsed. A second desperate charge was attempted, with a similar result. In attempting to withdraw the guns they got into difficulties, were upset in the watercuts, and passed for some time into the hands of the enemy. The gunners and cavalry retreated, covered by the 14th Lancers. General Roberts, who had ridden out from the camp, rallied a portion in the direction of Dehtimozang, and Captain Deane, a volunteer on the Staff, rallied some others. Colonel Macgregor, Chief of the Staff, met the latter party, and under his direction and guidance the guns, which, fortunately, the enemy could not carry away, were recovered. No words of praise are too great for this action. The enemy, triumphant from Brigadier-General Massy's mishap, had in the meantime marched towards Cabul, and would have entered the city but that General Roberts, with great forethought, had guarded the Dehtimozang defile with two companies of the 72nd Regiment, who were reinforced by the cavalry he had rallied. General Macpherson, hearing Brigadier-General Massy's guns, had forthwith altered his route accordingly and pressed the enemy's rear, without, however being able to bring them to close action. The insurgents, finding themselves between General Macpherson and General Roberts, betook themselves to the hills about the city. General Macpherson encamped for the night at Dehtimozang. In the meanwhile excellent arrangements were made for the defence. Sherpur is much denuded of troops. General Roberts returned from Dehtimozang in the evening, riding through the city, which was perfectly tranquil.

"On the 12th inst. General Macpherson was instructed to dislodge the enemy from the position which they had taken on the hills above the city, and from which they had made during the night several determined attacks upon the hills commanding the Bala Hissar, which post, however, was gallantly held by a picket of the 72nd Regiment. The possession of this hill would give the insurgents ready access to the city. General Macpherson's attack was directed from this picket hill against a very steep conical hill called Taktishah, which was held in great force by the enemy. The attacking force, which was commanded by Colonel Noel Money, consisted of 200 men of the 67th Regiment, 150 men of the 3rd Sikhs, a wing of the 5th Goorkhas, and two mountain guns. The ground to be covered by the attacking party was very extensive, and the progress of the troops was slow, owing to the nature of the ground and the determined resistance of the enemy. Night approached before the final assault could be made, and the importance of success was so great that General Roberts ordered the attack to be suspended for the night, the troops holding the ground they had gained, and he also made arrangements for renewing the attack yesterday. This he was enabled to do by the arrival of the Guides and the return of General Baker late at night. Accordingly yesterday morning General Baker marched, with 500 men of the 92nd Guide Infantry, 200 men of the 3rd Sikhs, the 5th Punjab Cavalry, four mountain guns, and Craster's Battery, with orders to ascend the ridge, of which Taktishah is the culminating point from Benishahr, and aid Colonel Money by a strong flank attack. General Baker found the enemy in great force at and about the point of ascent, also on the ridge itself. A column of attack was immediately formed, two companies of the 92nd Highlanders, under Major White, leading the way, and advanced with the greatest determination, only halting occasionally for breath. The enemy receded before this steady advance, and would not wait the final assault. As the Highlanders approached the summit they streamed away, and Colonel Money occupied it unopposed a few minutes before the Highlanders could reach it. Meanwhile large numbers of the tribesmen and Sepoys who had spent the night in the neighbouring villages attacked General Baker's troops left at the foot of the heights and spread themselves over the country

as far as Siah-sung. These were not finally dispersed until General Baker was rejoined by the troops from the hills and until the cavalry were dispatched in several directions from Sherpur. In this service all the cavalry had an opportunity of distinguishing themselves. The Guide Cavalry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart, made two very effective charges. The city remained quiet, but the outskirts and General Baker's rear had to be cleared, the latter by some companies of the 5th Punjab Infantry, for on the smallest success the population would have joined the insurgents. The combination against us, which is, doubtless, strong, and received some encouragement from the unfortunate event of Thursday, has met with a severe check from our successes yesterday, and will probably soon collapse, and the bodies still in arms against us will be promptly attacked and our future position improved by certain measures of severity and precaution which recent events have suggested. The troops are in excellent spirits and ready for any work."

The loss during last week in the various affairs up to Friday night were forty-two killed, of whom six were officers, and seventy-six wounded, of whom nine were officers. Among the officers killed are: Hardy, R.H.A.; Batson, Harsey, and Ricardo, of the 9th Lancers. The wounded officers were: Cleland, Mackenzie, Chisholm, and Trower, of the 9th Lancers; Lieutenants Fasken and Cook, of the 3rd Sikhs; Colonel Fitzhugh and Major Cook, V.C., of the 5th Goorkhas; and Lieutenant Ferguson, of the 72nd Highlanders. On Saturday the additional losses were nineteen killed, including Captain Spens and Lieutenant Gaistoro, 72nd Highlanders; eighty-eight wounded, including Captain Gordon, 92nd, Captain Battye, Guides, and Lieutenant Egerton, 72nd.

A despatch to the Viceroy from General Roberts on Sunday reported continuous fighting. The enemy were still advancing in great force, and General Roberts had decided to collect his forces within the Sherpur cantonment, giving up the heights above the city. General Gough, from Gundamak, and General Arbuthnot, from Jellalabad, have been ordered up to Cabul. Reinforcements are being dispatched to replace the troops at those points, but it must be some days before any reinforcements can reach General Roberts. The brigades which he has ordered up to his support are at Gundamak and Jellalabad, and comprise the 6th Carabineers, I Battery C Brigade R.H.A., 9th Foot, 51st Light Infantry, a mountain battery, the 10th Bengal Lancers, 24th, 39th, and 45th Native Infantry, 2nd and 4th Goorkhas; but it will be impossible to move these troops forward until reinforcements have arrived to take their places. However, the Sherpur cantonments are intrenched, and Sir F. Roberts has, or had, five months' supplies within them.

By the latest news to the hour of this writing, dated Wednesday evening from Calcutta, we learn that the telegraphic communication of the Indian Government with Cabul is interrupted near the Jugdulluk Pass, between that city and Jellalabad; and General Gough reports that the tribes along that road are now obstructing his advance. Orders have been given to keep in India the 1st battalion of the 5th Regiment, the 59th, and the 73rd, which had received their leave to come home. The Queen has sent a message of approval and encouragement to the army in Afghanistan.

Our Illustrations this week comprise a view of the Lahore gate of the Bala Hissar, the fortified precinct of Cabul; one of the interior of the late British Residency, from a sketch by Surgeon W. A. Simmonds, and one of a party of Afghan hill-men attacking a convoy, upon which they fire down from the rocks above the road.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

The resignations of M. Le Royer, the Minister of Justice, and M. Rene Goblet, under Secretary of State for the same department, were announced yesterday week in the *Journal Officiel*.

Both Chambers met on the 11th inst. In the Senate Marshal Canrobert made a personal explanation in reply to some recent attacks on the occasion of his re-election. He said that as a soldier and Marshal he had no right to be hostile to the Government, but owed obedience to the laws; and that though as a honest man he had a political opinion and cherished recollections of a family which had undergone many misfortunes, he enforced that opinion on none, and should not tolerate opposition to the Government under his orders as Marshal. He hoped the army would never meddle with politics; for if it ever did so, it would speedily destroy both itself and the country. He had been denounced as one of the *coup d'etat*, but he was wholly ignorant of the preparation or execution of that step, and so far from ordering the people on the boulevards to be fired upon, he stopped the firing. The firing was an absurdity, and no General would ever have ordered it. It was doubtless the work of young conscripts. The vote for a new professorship of the history of religions at the Collège de France was opposed by M. Laboulaye, but agreed to by 140 to 124; and after a discussion on Congregational schools, in which M. Jules Ferry denied that the Government made war against Catholicism, the Budget votes were completed. In the Chamber of Deputies M. Lepère submitted a vote of 5,000,000f. out of this year's surplus for the aid of the sufferers from the deficiency of the crops and the exceptional severity of the present winter. The proposition was discussed at once and adopted, with three dissentients. The Chamber of Deputies agreed last Saturday to the proposal for the rebuilding of the General Post Office at Paris. The Chamber also agreed to suspend the prosecution of M. Baudry d'Asson for his speech at the Legitimist banquet, and to a repayment of 64,000,000f. to the Bank of France out of the year's surplus; but rejected a proposal to pay 3,500,000f. to the bank as partial compensation for its enforced advance of 16,000,000f. to the Commune. The Budget Committee contended that the bank had received indirect compensation to the amount of 1,500,000f. per annum by a reduction of the bank-note stamp duty, and the Chamber adopted the view of the Committee. On Monday an unexpected question arose concerning Roumania in the Chamber, on M. Louis Legrand asking whether the Government were prepared to recognise its independence. M. Waddington reminded the House that it was the French Plenipotentiaries who were chiefly instrumental at Berlin in obtaining for Roumania an increase of territory in compensation for the loss of Bessarabia. She was now engaged with other Powers in negotiations which he hoped would soon end in the recognition of Roumanian independence. The Chamber subsequently voted the credit of 80,000,000f. asked for by the Government for the construction and repairing of country roads.

During the coming recess a new Cabinet will practically be formed, through the process of filling up the posts left vacant. Lockroy's interpellation of the Government on the subject of the amnesty was on Tuesday made in the Chamber of Deputies, and resulted in the "order of the day" being voted by 250 members against 50.

The French Society of Water Colour Painters opened on Wednesday evening an exhibition of oil paintings.

Baron de Bourqueney, a Grand Cordon of the Legion of Honour, and formerly Receiver-General of Finances, died a few days since at the age of eighty-eight. He was the brother of Count de Bourqueney, and Ambassador under the Empire, and the second French Plenipotentiary at the Congress of Paris in 1816.

M. Claude Etienne Minié, the inventor of the rifle which bears his name, died in Paris on Sunday. He was born in Paris in 1804, and took part as a private soldier in several campaigns in Algeria. His good conduct brought him promotion, and it was as captain in a battalion of chasseurs that he conceived the idea of improving the muskets used in the army. He became an instructor of musketry at Vincennes, and in this capacity introduced fresh changes into the construction of firearms. He retired in 1858.

SPAIN.

Last Saturday the King and Queen, while driving in the Atocha-street, at Madrid, met a priest, who was taking the last sacraments to a dying man. Their Majesties immediately alighted from their carriage and lent it to the priest, following on foot, amid the acclamations of the populace.

Señor Canovas del Castillo, the new Premier, gave explanations in the Chamber of Deputies, on the 11th inst., as to the causes of the recent Ministerial crisis. At the conclusion of his remarks the Constitutional minority asked for further information on the subject. Señor Canovas del Castillo stated that he was obliged to go to the Senate, but would return immediately in order to reply to the interpellation. Against this course the Constitutional Deputies protested, and considerable excitement arose, in the midst of which the President put on his hat and declared the sitting of the Chamber closed. All the groups of the Opposition have decided not to enter the House again until explanations have been given by Señor Canovas del Castillo. He declines to offer an apology, maintaining that he has not committed any breach of privilege. Delegates have been nominated by the Committee of the Senators and Deputies appointed at the recent meeting of the members of the Opposition to propose to the various sections of the Ministry a definite plan of action to be followed by them in the present difficult situation.

Bad news, it is stated, has been received from Cuba. The Minister of War has received the resignations of several Generals. The new Colonial Minister has, by telegraph, informed the Commander-in-Chief in Cuba that the Government will dispatch from Spain the means required to effect the complete suppression of the insurrection, and will also carry out the economical reforms in Cuba in such a manner as to reconcile all interests.

PORTUGAL.

A despatch received from Lisbon, dated Sunday, states that the King and the Royal family, with the Austrian Archduke Regnier and the Archduchess, have gone by rail to the ancient Palace of Villa Vicosa.

ITALY.

In Monday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies Signor Baccarini, Minister of Public Works, brought in a bill to authorise extraordinary expenditure to the amount of 12,000,000 lire, for the purpose of immediately executing works of a local character in communes where the inhabitants are in a state of poverty. The Committee on the bill for increasing the military expenditure have approved the principle of the measure. Signor Villa, the Minister of Justice, in reply to a question with regard to the reported sale by the Vatican of the majolica collection at the Castelgandolfo Palace, said that the Government had ordered the seizure of the plates in question, considering that they had a full right to take that step.

Signor Depretis has been re-elected at Stradella.

GERMANY.

Count Schouvaloff arrived at Berlin on Thursday, the 11th inst., on his way to St. Petersburg. Early in the afternoon he was received by the Emperor, and subsequently paid a visit to the Crown Prince of Germany. The Count left Berlin early last Saturday morning on a visit to Prince Bismarck at Varzin.

Lord Dufferin, who spent Sunday and Monday with Prince Bismarck at Varzin, left Berlin on Monday night in company with Count Schouvaloff for St. Petersburg.

By a considerable majority, the Federal Council on Tuesday adopted the bill fixing the legislative period of the German Reichstag at four years, and providing that the Budgets for the Empire shall only be presented every two years.

In the Lower House of the Prussian Diet on the 11th inst. the resolutions were agreed to which the Committee had moved as a rider to the Railway Bill. Yesterday week the Railway Purchase Bill was read the third time in the form in which it passed the second reading. During the debate Herr Bitter, Minister of Finance, stated that he had no intention of going to the Dutch and English markets to obtain greater facilities for the sale of Prussian Consols. Prussia did not want that, for by taking such a course she would fall back into the class of States which did not find in their own country the strength to maintain their credit.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

The Austrian Army Bill was on Saturday last unanimously passed by the Upper House of the Austrian Reichsrath in the form in which it was originally presented by the Government.

The Hungarian Government on the 11th inst. introduced in the Lower House of the Diet a bill proposing to cover a portion of the deficit for 1880 by raising the sum of 14,000,000 fl. by the issue of 15,000,000 fl. of the 140,000,000 fl. of the Gold Rente, or by a partial issue of the same and the sale of the railway shares at present invested in the name of the Government. At yesterday week's sitting the Government stated that they had taken steps to relieve the sufferers by the inundations. A telegram from Pesth states that by the overflowing of the Körös several towns are laid in ruins, and the inhabitants have taken to flight. In the comitat of Behar 10,000 persons have been rendered homeless.

On Tuesday afternoon both Delegations met at Vienna for the first time, the Austrian at one p.m. and the Hungarian at six. The business in both was the election of the Presidents, the Bureaux, and the Committees. In the Austrian Delegation Chevalier Schmerling was elected President by thirty votes against Prince Czartoryski, who received twenty-nine. In the Hungarian Delegation Cardinal-Archbishop Haynald was unanimously elected President. Count Andrássy, the Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says, has, at his own request, been elected a member of the Hungarian Delegation, and proposes to support the Government policy in the Transleithan Delegations. In both Delegations the new Minister of Foreign Affairs presented the Estimates, which are within a fraction of the same amount as those voted for the current year—4,000,000 fl. for Foreign Affairs, 93,000,000 fl. for the Army, 8,000,000 fl. for the Navy; in all, together with pensions, the Ministry of Finance, and the Court of Accounts, 108,500,000 fl., or about £10,500,000.

RUSSIA.

Arrests continue to be made in St. Petersburg, and it is said that a person in custody was found to be in possession of a detailed plan of the Winter Palace. Several reports were

published last Saturday morning of a plot to destroy the life of the Czar by blowing up the Winter Palace at St. Petersburg. The Berlin correspondent of the *Standard*, however, is of opinion that the story has been concocted "for export purposes exclusively." Any one (the correspondent says) acquainted with the Winter Palace—a structure about three times as large as Buckingham Palace—would smile at the idea of the building being blown up except by enormous quantities of explosive material. In keeping with this amusing detail is the statement that the conspirators, humanely tempering rigour with leniency, gave the Emperor a chance of escape by suggesting the surrender of his authority to a Parliament. An authoritative statement which has been published at St. Petersburg asserts that the reports in some of the foreign newspapers that renewed attempts against the life of the Czar had been made or were in contemplation are partly gross exaggerations and partly absolute inventions. It is admitted, however, that in their search for the authors of the attempt to blow up the Emperor's train at Moscow the police have made numerous arrests leading to discoveries which point to the conclusion that fresh crimes are meditated by the Nihilist conspirators.

The *Daily News* publishes a letter from its special correspondent with the Russian expedition in Central Asia giving some further information respecting the defeat at Dengil Tepe. One indication of the loss of prestige which it has entailed has been shown by the capture of a convoy of more than forty camels by the enemy's cavalry only twenty versts from Tchikislar. A few days after the Russians fell back on Chatte the village of Avasi, near that place, was sacked and burned. More than 160 men and women were killed, and the children carried off as slaves.

ROUMANIA.

The bill for the purchase of the Roumanian railways by the State is being discussed by the Senate in committee.

On Sunday the Senate voted the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne by 31 votes against one.

AMERICA.

The House of Representatives at Washington have adopted a resolution for the appointment of a committee to consider matters relating to the projected interoceanic canal.

A telegram from Philadelphia states that General Grant arrived there on Tuesday morning, and was enthusiastically received. A long procession was formed to precede him to his residence. The day was observed as a holiday, and a grand banquet was to be given in his honour in the evening.

The ex-Confederate General William Mahone, leader of the Debt Readjustment party in Virginia, has been elected United States Senator for Virginia.

CANADA.

A telegram from Ottawa states that Mr. Hugh Nelson has been appointed a member of the Dominion Senate.

Intelligence received at Victoria, British Columbia, states that the Indians at Kamloops are much excited in consequence of several murders having been committed by half-breed outlaws. The Indians have barricaded themselves in a log-house, where they are besieged by settlers. A police force from Victoria has started for Kamloops. An Indian rising is apprehended.

SOUTH AFRICA.

News has been received from the Cape to Nov. 25. Moiro's mountain was successfully stormed and taken on Nov. 20, after having been shelled for three days. The enemy's loss was great, and amongst the killed was Moiro himself; he was shot through the neck, and his body was found in a cave. Our casualties were two whites wounded and two natives killed.

The attack on Secoceni's stronghold was to take place on the 28th ult.

INDIA.

Lord Lytton was fired at by a drunken East Indian as he was riding into Calcutta on the evening of the 12th inst. Two shots were fired at his carriage and one at the carriage which followed. No one was hurt, and the assassin was arrested by the Viceroy's Staff. A Reuter's telegram states that he is a Eurasian, belonging to a respectable family, and was formerly in the Government employ. He had been recently discharged from the Allahabad Lunatic Asylum.

Particulars of the fighting with the tribes near Cabul are given in another column.

AUSTRALIA.

We learn through Reuter's agency that on the 10th inst. the Hon. James Watson, the Colonial Treasurer, made his financial statement in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly. After showing that the large accumulated surplus accruing from the revenue of previous years had been absorbed to the extent of £1,500,000 during the last Session for public works, comprising buildings of great general importance, such as had been formerly provided for by loans, he proceeded to state that there remained a balance of nearly £1,000,000, which it was proposed to reduce, by other works and services of a similar nature, to £600,000. The Treasurer next pointed out that in consequence of the temporary falling-off of the land sales, which he had not anticipated when making his last financial statement, there would be a diminution of income for 1879 of £200,000, which he proposed to charge against the remaining balance of the surplus of previous years. With regard to the revenue and expenditure for 1880, he estimated that the income would fall short of last year's receipts by £220,000, principally because a continued reduction of the sale of land by auction must be anticipated. To meet the deficiency and to provide for contingent and unforeseen charges, the Treasurer proposed to increase the direct and indirect taxation by over £400,000 annually, of which £350,000 would be received next year. A part of his scheme was to reimpose the stamp duties, which had been in operation for nearly ten years prior to 1875. There would be, however, a slight modification in these duties embodying the principle of an income tax in the form of stamped receipts, which would admit of expansion as the necessities of the State required increase of revenue. Mr. Watson further proposed to raise the duties in the present tariff as follows:—Spirits, 2s. a gallon; sparkling wines, 4s. a gallon; still wines, 1s. a gallon; manufactured tobacco, 6d., and leaf tobacco, 3d. a pound; all beer and porter, 3d. a gallon. The excise duties on tobacco manufactured in the colony would also be raised by 3d., and those on all kinds of beer and porter by 3d. a gallon. Apart from the falling-off in the land sales, the revenue was at present in a more healthy condition than could be expected, considering the depression in trade and commerce during the last two years. As a revival in trade was now taking place, he (Mr. Watson) felt justified in speaking hopefully of the future. The taxation in New South Wales was considerably less than in any other Australian colony. It was not the intention of the Government to float any portion of the last authorised loan for some time; as a balance of £1,200,000 of previous loans was still to be negotiated. The Treasurer concluded his statement by declaring that the cash balances standing to the credit of the Government, on all accounts, exceeded £3,000,000. Mr. Watson's speech and his financial proposals were favourably received by the House.

In consequence of the result of the vote in the Melbourne

Legislative Assembly on the Constitutional Reform Bill, the Government have decided to abandon the measure, and have at the same time recommended the Governor to dissolve the Parliament. His Excellency has acquiesced.

The *Official Gazette* of Copenhagen publishes a Declaration, signed by the representatives of Great Britain and Denmark, providing for the mutual protection of trade marks.

Reports have reached Athens from Corfu that two Englishmen, who lately left the island for Epirus, have been captured by brigands, who demand a ransom of £4000.

Prince Charles has telegraphed to M. Gueschoff, the President of the Provincial Assembly of Eastern Roumelia, inviting him to accept a Ministerial post in Bulgaria.

A famine is reported to have broken out in the province of Van, in Armenia, and the inhabitants are emigrating. Subscriptions have been opened by the Patriarch for the sufferers.

Tuesday's *Gazette* contains the terms of the treaty concluded between Great Britain and the Swiss Confederation for the extradition of criminals.

News has reached New York by way of Colorado that a fight occurred on the 15th inst. between a hundred Apaches and a party of Mexicans from Chihuahua, in which eighty of the Indians were killed and wounded.

According to accounts given in Havannah newspapers which have been received at New York, the revolution in San Domingo has been successful; business was thriving, and heavy shipments of tobacco were being made to Germany.

The ship *Norval*, Captain Halliday, sailed from Plymouth yesterday week for Sydney with 386 emigrants, of whom there are 45 married couples, 86 single men, 124 single women, 50 boys, 36 girls, and 6 infants. There are 187 English, 20 Scotch, 177 Irish, and 2 foreigners.

The King of the Belgians, it is announced, again offers a prize of 25,000f. or £1250, open to writers of all nationalities, for an essay on "Means for the Improvement of Harbours on Low and Sandy Coasts," such as those of Belgium. Foreign writers must send in their essays to the Ministry of the Interior at Brussels on or before Jan. 1, 1881.

A mail for the Australian and New Zealand Colonies will be made up for dispatch by the Colonial Line steam-ship *City of London*, leaving Plymouth for Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney, on Monday next. Letters must be posted at the usual hour on Saturday, and must be specially directed per steam-ship *City of London*, via Plymouth.

News from the West Coast of Africa states that two towns were burned and destroyed by the British expedition which recently proceeded up the Niger. The expedition, which was under the command of Captain Burr, R.N., consisted of a force of bluejackets and marines and a detachment of Houssas. The good effect of the punishment (a telegram says) was stated to have been felt at once, as oil and produce were coming down the river in large quantities.

The Intelligence Branch of the Quartermaster-General's Department has issued two excellent maps—the one of Sekukuna's territory and the surrounding country; the other, upon a larger scale, of Secoceni's territory, including the rugged range known as the Lulu Mountain. These maps are of great value and interest at the present time, when the next mail will probably bring news of the attack upon Secoceni's fortress by Colonel Baker Russell's force.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* has received news that the Persian Government has decided to send an extraordinary mission to Europe, which is to proceed by way of Constantinople to Vienna, and thence to Berlin, Paris, and London, the object being to obtain a recognition of the Persian Attrek frontier, which is threatened by Russia. The Berlin correspondent of the *Standard* says that reinforcements are being constantly sent to Turkestan in preparation for the campaign to be begun early in the spring. The attack upon Merv, which was to have taken place this summer, is to be carried out as soon as the season permits.

POLITICAL.

The theory has been broached that the Dissolution of Parliament is near at hand because of the earlier issue than usual of certain Treasury notifications to expedite the preparation of the Estimates. A week overshadowed by the gloomy news of reverses at Cabul is hardly the time to give credence to the notion. It was officially notified in the *London Gazette* of Tuesday last that Parliament would assemble "for the dispatch of divers urgent and important affairs" on Thursday, Feb. 5 next; and, whatever, backstairs gossip may be published by oracular morning or evening prints, it appears pretty clear now that the Earl of Beaconsfield and his colleagues have resolved to ascertain the tone of St. Stephen's ere determining the date of their appeal to the country. Meantime, there are not lacking lively indications that the politically active constituencies have carefully weighed their representatives in the balance, and have formed a rough-and-ready idea of the real weight and value of their Parliamentary action. Hon. members who can stand the test of the rigid analysis of the great divisions of the present Parliament, published in the *Daily News* of Tuesday, may presumably feel sufficiently certain of the re-election their political fidelity entitles them to. But this seasonable list may not improbably make many backsliders shake uncomfortably in their shoes. It would be invidious to particularise these gentlemen, and it might, moreover, be deemed cruel when their sins are on the eve of finding them out.

The election of a member for Sheffield in the place of the late Mr. Roebuck on Monday next is looked forward to with more than local interest; but if Mr. Waddy, Q.C., should be chosen in preference to Mr. Wortley, and Alderman Sir Robert Carden should slip into his seat for Barnstaple, the balance of parties will be the same as regards the practical point of the division list. The polling at Donegal, on the other hand, has resulted in the gain of a seat for the Liberals, the late Conservative member, Mr. Wilson, having been succeeded by Mr. Lea, who had a majority of 683 over Mr. McCorkell, the Conservative candidate. This apparent gain, however, has to be qualified by the proverbial uncertainty of the Irish vote in the House of Commons.

The unanimity with which the majority of Ministers have avoided war topics and turned to agriculture (the Duke of Richmond has followed the Marquis of Salisbury's example in this respect) may be regarded as so far satisfactory that it possibly indicates a willingness to turn the sword into the ploughshare. We must not halloo, however, until we are out of the wood of the forthcoming Conservative demonstration in the provinces. If Ministerial utterances at this meeting be as moderate in tone as the compact and sensible speech made by Mr. W. H. Smith on the 11th inst. at the Rev. G. Blencowe's Zulu lecture in Pimlico, it would be most in accord with the fitness of things. The First Lord of the Admiralty, whilst disclaiming Ministerial responsibility for the Zulu War, said it was undesirable we should extend our responsibilities in that part of the world, and

repeated the Chancellor of the Exchequer's dictum that our colonial brethren must learn that they must, as a rule, depend upon themselves for defence against internal enemies. Albeit, Sir W. Hart Dyke, the Conservative whip, spoke of himself at Tunbridge on Tuesday as a "stormy petrel," he had not a word to say as to when the Dissolution wind would set in. Sir Wilfrid Lawson, addressing his constituents at Carlisle the same day in company with his colleague, Mr. Robert Ferguson, confidently said the issue of the Donegal election foreshadowed the result of the General Election. Speaking also on Tuesday in Dublin, Mr. Parnell (who leaves for the United States to-day) did not trouble himself on this point, but confined himself to bringing about a union of the Central Tenants' Defence Association with the Irish National Land League.

Mr. Walter approaches his Parliamentary duties in a manner so devoutly impartial that he may well have been astonished yesterday week, when his support of the Ministry met with marked disfavour at a Berkshire meeting at Newbury, and even his justification of his votes did not shake off a resolution of dissatisfaction with the representation of the county. Mr. Massey seemed to be far more at home with his constituents at Tiverton the same day, when the practical mind of Mr. Baxter was exercised at Brechin, by-the-way, on the land laws, in reforming which he advocated the abolition of primogeniture, the limitation of entail and settlement, and a cheap system of transfer. In Scotland, too, Professor Blackie, in the course of a lecture on Saturday, put his foot down, and stoutly said he would vote for the Conservatives if the Liberal Party sought to disestablish the Church of Scotland. Various election movements are afoot within the metropolitan radius, the most noticeable being a meeting of Mr. Boord with his Greenwich constituents on Monday, when he was accompanied by Baron Henry de Worms, the second Conservative candidate.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS.

The two contrasted scenes of Morning and Night, Sea and Land, Outdoor and Indoor, rude and luxurious, manly and childish industry for the preparation of Christmas Festival Adornments have little else in common but that they might be supposed to occur on the same day of a cherished anniversary, the observance of which is equally popular with all classes of English folk. Indeed we may postulate, as an acknowledged condition of our social life, that Christmas Decorations are likely to find place at this season as well among the seafaring coast population as with the children, parents, and domestic servants of a comfortable family mansion.

DRESSING UP AN OLD BUOY.

It was not an Old Boy, but an Old Buoy—a wooden-headed fellow, who was, though of unsteady habits, and too often half-seas-over, still employed and allowed to keep his place, as a sort of sentinel, at the north entrance to a certain harbour in the Channel Islands. This rather doubtful character, with his rolling gait and frequent fits of bobbery among his nautical companions, did not claim any high degree of social respectability; but it was contrived by charitable neighbours on shore that he, too, should keep Christmas with the rest of them. He did not indeed go to Church that day, but stayed outside, like an old Heathen as he was, to worship Father Neptune with the Tritons and Mermaids and other Porpoises, when their congregation drew near from the misty offing. But there was a Missionary of Christmas observance who put forth to the seasonable reclamation of this bewildered outcast. It was Tom Tug, the harbour-master's boatman, accompanied by his son Little Jemmy, whose puny hands can already wield a pair of oars, if not making sea-way, at least so as to keep the boat close alongside of the Old North Buoy. Our Artist chanced to be a witness of this quaint and kindly performance. The honest alacrity of the good seaman, as he grappled his familiar customer, while fending off the boat with knee and elbow from harmful collision, was pleasant to see. It was a still and calm December morning, but the under-swell from the Atlantic lifted the Old Buoy and the small boat together, as if gently dandled in the lap of irresistible might. There was, to the mind of an unaccustomed landsman, something impressive and solemn in this peculiar situation. So the lonely old weather-beaten guardian of a safe channel for ships that would sail or steam that way received his Christmas greeting, with a garland of evergreen laurels to crown his rugged brow, looking forth on the Bay of Biscay and the Western Ocean.

DRESSING UP THE BLACK OLD BOY.

In the large household establishment of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob St. Vincent, who came to England with £250,000 from sugar-planting or trading and money-dealing in the West Indies, old Peter, the favourite negro footman, always held a privileged place. He had lived sixty-eight years, from the date of his birthday in the old times of legal slavery, a faithful dependent on the family of his present master, whose father, the late Sampson St. Vincent, of Muscovado Vale, in Trinidad, reared this valuable black human chattel from a well-assorted pair of bond-servants on that estate. Peter's mother, a fine healthy young woman, having been the wet-nurse by whose assistance Master Jacob's pining infancy was kept alive, it was not unnatural that, as Mr. Jacob grew up to a prosperous manhood, there should be a kindly mutual attachment between Peter and his respectable master. The era of colonial slave emancipation passed over their heads, altering the relations of a million other negroes, male and female, both field hands and house servants, to their former proprietors, some of whom, in spite of large pecuniary compensation, professed themselves ruined by the change. Peter, then a fine strong young man, but still called a "boy," as is customary with negro personal attendants, remained quite unconscious of his new social rights as a free citizen, or at least perfectly indifferent to the opportunity he now had of going out into the world to shift for himself. He never thought of leaving Mr. Jacob, nor did Mr. Jacob and Mrs. Jacob, herself the daughter and heiress of a wealthy planter, ever think it possible that honest Peter could wish to leave them. And so it has come to pass, now that the rich West Indian family have removed its abode to Porchester-terrace, Bayswater, the good old black "boy" is still an inmate of their comfortable London house. The pretty little Miss, their only child, who from her babyhood has loved Peter as dearly as sweet Eva St. Clare loved her worthy "Uncle Tom," in Mrs. Stowe's most touching story, is determined that Peter shall accept a Christmas gift from her hands, to ornament his person as he waits at the dinner-table. He is busied with his twofold office, as footman and butler, aided by the London housemaids, to set the glasses and bottles in readiness, while his mistress is coming down stairs to look after some final preparations for her expected party of guests. This is the moment when good little Marie St. Vincent, calling her old negro friend and servant, who would kiss the stool that raises her feet to enable her to reach him, is about to fasten a beautiful bouquet of flowers in the breast of his livery coat. Here is a pleasing example of Christmas Decorations, with a touch of that kindly good nature that "makes the whole world kin."



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: CHRISTMAS MORNING.—SEE PAGE 571.
DRAWN BY A. E. EMBLEY.



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: CHRISTMAS NIGHT.—SEE PAGE 571.
DRAWN BY C. GREGORY.

ILLUSTRATED CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

No gift of the Christmas or New-Year season of friendly tokens and graceful presents would be more acceptable, to any young lady who cultivates the taste for poetry and the charming accomplishment of singing, than the volume issued by Messrs. C. Kegan Paul and Co., which we are about to mention. It is *Songs from the Published Writings of Alfred Tennyson, Poet Laureate*, set to music by various composers. The editor, Mr. W. G. Cousins, has performed his office with discriminating care and knowledge of the composer's and musician's art. Ten of the forty-five songs here presented have already been given to the world, in company with their music, by Messrs. Novello, Boosey and Co., Stanley Lucas, Weber and Co., L. Cock, and J. Williams, the publishers. Thirty-five are new and original, having been composed expressly for this occasion. Among the contributors to these are Sir Julius Benedict, M. Gounod, Herr Joachim Raff, Signor Ciro Pinsuti, Messrs. Arthur Sullivan, G. A. Macfarren, H. Leslie, W. G. Cousins, J. L. Hatton, and others of good repute. The music is all written in the treble clef; only a few pieces have been set as part-songs. No lady's drawing-room should be without this delightful volume, close beside her indispensable pianoforte.

An interesting topographical subject is treated with an historical and descriptive commentary by Mr. Andrew Lang, M.A., late Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford. It is no less than *Oxford*, the town and the University, which theme is worthy beyond question of the publication (by Messrs. Seeley, Jackson, and Halliday) that now claims our notice. This combines Mr. Lang's pleasantly written chapters, in about sixty folio pages, with ten fine etchings, by Kent-Thomas, Brunet-Debaines, and Toussaint, and fifteen vignette engravings, which represent picturesque views of the old Colleges and their precincts, and some of the churches and streets of Oxford. The text alone is quite deserving of a separate perusal; the etchings have much artistic merit, being equal to those which generally appear in the *Portfolio*, under Mr. P. G. Hamerton's direction.

The translation, by Mr. C. Rollin-Tilton, of that entertaining traveller Edmondo de Amicis on *Morocco, its People and Places*, published by Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin, forms a handsome volume, with a large number of wood engravings from the original French designs. It is full of lively and piquant descriptions, moving figures, and groups of men and women and beasts, very different from those of any European country, with habits, manners, and sentiments of a genuine Oriental character, the romantic diversity of which is rather stimulating to our starved fancy in this age of monotonous and uniform Western civilisation. Signor De Amicis, whom we believe to be a Piedmontese, unites some of the Italian with French literary talents in his agreeable, forcible, animated vein of light narrative and discourse upon what he sees in foreign lands. His frank cheerfulness, as well as the quickness of his observation, makes him a very pleasing writer. The illustrations are of corresponding vivacity and power.

The same publishers offer, to the lovers of contemporary art-studies, a newly-opened range of critical and biographical disquisition, that which deals with *American Painters*, by the pen of Mr. G. W. Sheldon. Some forty of these artists, from Frederick E. Church, Sanford Gifford, and Bierstadt, to Asher Durand, Appleton Brown, Alexander Wyant, and others probably of high merit in their different ways, are here introduced. We recollect having seen pictures by Church and Bierstadt at South Kensington Exhibitions; but most of those just named are known to us only by report, and by the fine engravings in this new book, which comes to England from Messrs. Appleton and Co., of New York. It is, in some respects, the most interesting work upon a national school of art, more especially of landscape-art, that we have lately received. Mr. Sheldon has a noble appreciation of the genius and spirit of all these true masters of the interpretation of nature's beauty and sublimity in their own vast and glorious Western land. He writes of them and their subjects, without any "spread-eagle" flights of exaggeration, with perfect soberness and earnestness, but with a generous sympathy which his readers can hardly resist. His instructive explanations of their technical methods, of the drawing and colouring, and of the peculiar effects of atmosphere, light, and vegetation in that country; the characteristics of its scenery, for instance, on the shores of the Hudson, in the Adirondacs, and in many woodland, mountain, lake, and riverside places, will gratify the intelligent mind. There is equal good taste and right feeling in his accounts of the personal history of the American living artists. The illustrations, which are very finely drawn, engraved, and printed, to the number of eighty-three, present two specimens of each painter, for the most part, though in a few instances but one example; and these are quite sufficient to justify the writer's commendation of their works.

We have, upon former occasions, expressed our sincere approval of Cassell's *Magazine of Art, Illustrated*, the volume of which is now before us. Its contents are of an entertaining variety; but all contributing to a general and comprehensive acquaintance with the arts of design, both pictorial and decorative, the lives and works of those who practise them, especially in England and in the United States, and the available subjects and materials. The wood-engravings are in great plenty and of good quality. A work of substantial value, in which the study of natural history is presented, though by a strict scientific method, under a very attractive aspect, has been lately issued by Messrs. Cassell. It is *Animal Life, Described and Illustrated*, by Dr. E. Perceval Wright, Professor of Botany at the Dublin University and sometime Lecturer on Zoology there. His accounts of zoological classification, and the precise connotation of distinctive features in every species, follow the course of the best manuals for advanced students, but are frequently accompanied by lively extracts from the narratives of observant travellers and other naturalists, illustrative of the habits of animals. The volume is complete in itself, consisting of more than six hundred pages, one third part of which is devoted to mammalia, above two hundred pages to birds, reptiles, and fishes, and the remainder to insects, mollusca, and the lower or simpler forms of animal life. There are engravings, fairly drawn, on almost every page. This work is of a higher scope than the Rev. J. G. Wood's "*Illustrated Natural History*," published five years ago by Messrs. Routledge, which has its merits as a popular compilation. *Science for All*, edited by Dr. Robert Brown, is a volume also published by Messrs. Cassell, to which many competent authors have furnished brief explanations of physical, astronomical, geological, and other natural phenomena, assisted by copious illustrations.

That renowned weekly issue, *Vanity Fair*, of characteristic grotesque or burlesque portraits of our notable contemporary personages, converts itself, at Christmas, into a volume called *The Vanity Fair Album*. The eleventh of such volumes, which is now before us, leads off with a good portrait of Mr. Gladstone, and contains those of twenty or thirty other statesmen, or members of Parliament, with Marshal MacMahon and M. Jules Grévy, late and present heads of the French Republic, Prince Napoleon and M. Louis Blanc, and with about twenty Englishmen and Frenchmen whose social distinction is owing

to other than political exertions. Among the last-mentioned are Victor Hugo, Ernest Renan, Alexandre Dumas, Gounod, Mr. Herbert Spencer, and several officers lately commanding in the Zulu War. Mademoiselle Sarah Bernhardt is the solitary "woman of genius." The accompanying notices, by "Jehu Junior," are generally flippant, vulgar, and offensive—not less offensive in the patronising tone of praise, than in their silly affectation of scorn for those whom this literary "Pyke or Pluck" has not the sense or the heart to understand.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

The Earl of Beaconsfield has written to the Lord Mayor to say that he will have pleasure in allowing his name to be added to the Sir Rowland Hill Memorial Committee.

The directors of the London and Westminster Bank will recommend to the proprietors, at the meeting in January, the registration of this bank as a limited company under the powers of last Session's Act.

Yesterday week at the meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works, upon the application of the Sunday-School Union, a site upon the Victoria Embankment was granted for the erection of a statue to the memory of Robert Raikes, the founder of Sunday schools.

An important, though not highly respected, limb of the law—one of its executive—is dead. John Calcraft, for many years the executioner at Newgate and Horsefonger-lane Gaols, died last Saturday evening. He was born in 1800, and was by trade a shoemaker.

The sale of the valuable and extensive library (first portion) of the late Dr. Laing, of Edinburgh, was concluded yesterday week by Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge, at their rooms, Wellington-street, Strand; the eleven days' sale realising £13,288.

The memorial recommending the London School Board to secure the full services of its chairman, by the payment to him of a salary as provided for under the Education Act, has already received a large number of influential signatures. The memorial lies for signature at the offices of Mr. Edmund Johnson, 1, Castle-street, Holborn.

A continuation of the Saturday Evening Free Lectures at the Society of Arts, John-street, Adelphi—viz., a lecture on Shakspeare's "Merchant of Venice," by Mr. Francis Storr, B.A., was given last Saturday evening. The next lecture is by Sir Arthur Hobhouse, on "The Social and Political Condition of India."

At a meeting of the Statistical Society at King's College on Tuesday night a paper upon the value of money was read by Mr. R. H. Patterson. He considered that the value of money had increased, and the scarcity of gold would make itself felt on a return to prosperity in trade. Mr. T. Brassey, M.P., occupied the chair. A discussion followed.

At the invitation of Baroness Burdett-Coutts, nearly 500 cabmen, coachmen, and carter, and their wives, sat down to tea at Tolmer's-square Institute, near Euston-road; and were afterwards addressed by Colonel Burdett, Bishop Claughton, Colonel Sir E. Henderson, the Rev. Arthur Hall, and others, on the duty of the kind treatment of animals.

The weekly return of metropolitan pauperism shows that the total number of paupers on the last day of the first week in December was 89,789, of whom 46,673 were in workhouses, and 43,114 received outdoor relief. Compared with the corresponding weeks in the years 1878, 1877, and 1876, these figures show an increase of 7611, 7801, and 6980 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 717, of whom 550 were men, 140 women, and 27 children.

Another step has been made in the progress of electric light. On Monday night the Victoria station of the Metropolitan District Railway was brilliantly illuminated by ten electric lights, replacing twenty gas lamps which had previously only dimly lighted the station. The important point connected with the experiment is that these electric lights are maintained by the same engine and apparatus which, stationed at Charing-cross, subserve the purposes of forty lights on the Embankment and ten on Waterloo Bridge.

At a recent meeting of the Chapter of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, at St. John's-gate, Clerkenwell, it was unanimously resolved to confer the medal awarded by the Order for deeds of gallantry in saving life on land on Mr. Arthur H. Stokes (one of her Majesty's sub-inspectors of mines), Charles Maltby, John Hancock, Thomas Davis, and John Davis, for their brave conduct in rescuing in July last Dennis Bagshaw, who was imprisoned for five days by a sudden fall of "shale," or old workings, from the roof of the Black Engine Mine, Eyam, near Sheffield.

Seeing so much distress amongst the poor this inclement weather, the Consolidated Soup and Food Company, 23, Castle-street, Finsbury, have arranged to give, gratuitously, about 1000 gallons of soup to deserving charities. They will be ready to send it out on Monday next, 22nd inst., and the two following days. Application should be made at once by clergymen, and secretaries of institutions, either personally or by letter, so that they may inquire into each case, and apportion the quantity to their requirements.

The Amateur Orchestral Society, of which the Duke of Edinburgh is president, will give their first concert of the season in the Albert Hall this (Saturday) evening, in aid of the funds of the German Hospital at Dalston. Besides several orchestral performances by the society, there will be solos by Miss Minnie Hawk, Madame Norman-Néruda, Mdle. Marie Breidenstein, Herr Henschel, and Mr. Charles Hallé. Sir Julius Benedict will preside at the piano. The concert will be under the patronage of the Prince of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, and the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, who have promised to be present on the occasion.

The general meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society was held on the 11th inst. at the society's house, Hanover-square, under the presidency of the Duke of Bedford. Referring to the success attending the competition for the society's scholarships and certificates, the council in their report expressed a belief that if masters of schools were aware of the advantages offered by the society to scholars there would be a more general attempt in country schools to teach the principles of agriculture. It was stated that good work had been done by the society's laboratory during the year in detecting adulterations in feeding stuffs and manures.

The Westminster scholars, according to ancient custom, presented their annual Latin comedy on Thursday week, the piece selected for the present year being the "Trinummus" of Plautus. It was repeated on Tuesday and Thursday this week.—Doctors' Day at the Merchant Taylors' School was on Tuesday celebrated in the customary manner, and in the evening the company dined together in their hall in Threadneedle-street, Lord Chelmsford, Lord Hampton, and Sir Henry Drummond Wolff being amongst their guests.—The St. Paul's School Choral Society gave on Tuesday evening its annual concert, in the presence of a large number of ladies and gentlemen. The Dulwich College concert will be given next Monday.

WINTER EVERGREENS.

With the musical cry of "Holly, holly, O!" that now is heard in our southern suburbs, comes the hearty one also of "Winter evergreens," telling, as it told in the time of Gay—who wrote, "when they are bawld through all the town, then judge the festival of Christmas near"—that the end of the year is now at hand. The winter evergreens that then were sold were holly and ivy, fir-boughs and laurel, which still continue to be brought round to us, the latter being emblematic of peace and festivity—"now with bright holly all the temples strow, with laurel green and sacred mistletoe." In these more modern days, however, mistletoe—for obvious reasons, as its use has changed—is no longer in favour for church decoration.

The decking of houses at Christmas, with, as Stowe said, "whatever the season of the year afforded to be green," is, as we know, an ancient custom; and the legendary lore connected with it is so familiar to most of us that it need not here be dwelt on. The holly is, of course, in chief request, through the glow of its scarlet berries, and many writers make allusion to it. Thus, Evelyn, when recording with pride that long holly hedge of his at Say's Court, speaks of it as "blushing with its corals," and says, "we still dress up both our churches and houses on Christmas Day with its cheerful green and its rutilant berries;" and in a carol which is in the Harleian MSS. we read, "holly hath berries as red as any rose;" and it is the cheery influence of this very brightness—contrasting, as it often does, with the brilliant white of the snow surroundings—that makes the holly so welcome at this time of year. "What," asks Southey, "when bare and wintry woods we see, is then so cheerful as the holly-tree;" and his last wish is, "that in my age as cheerful I might be, as the green winter of the holly-tree." Holly and ivy have long held their sway, in cottage and in hall. "Even the poorest cottage," says Irving, "welcomed the festive season with decorations of holly;" and Scott describes the baronial hall as "dressed with holly green." So, too, George Wither, in the carol he wrote in the seventeenth century—"Each room with ivy-leaves is drest, and every post with holly;" while Wordsworth, alluding to its use in churches, says of them—"Green with fresh holly, every pew a porch."

Some writers, misled by the mistaken bracketing in books of the word "holme" with "evergreen-oak," have affirmed that the holly was not in use in olden days; but "holme" was, in fact, then the name that the holly went by, and the evergreen oak, as we know it now, had nothing to do with holly. At Candlemas it is the custom to remove all the Christmas decorations in houses and in churches. "Down with the holly, ivy, all, wherewith ye drest the Christmas hall;" "for," as Herrick goes on to say, "how many leaves there be, so many goblins you shall see;" and, with respect to churches, there are but few country parishes without this superstition—that "where a leaf or a berry is left in a pew on Candlemas Day there will be a death that year in the family who there sat in it." The name "holly" is, it is asserted, but a corruption of "holy" tree, and that it was so called from its use in churches.

The holly is common throughout the Midland districts and in many other parts of England, and some of the largest clusters of it are to be found in Staffordshire, at Medwood Park, and in Warwickshire, at Sutton; the trees growing in the latter locality being of immense size, and therefore almost berryless; for hollies, to berry well, have to be kept within certain bounds, or their flowers, which are white and waxen, will not show in April.

Of cultivated hollies, the named varieties now number 200, and it is said that there is not a bad one amongst them—whether of the red, the white, or the yellow-berried, the gold or the silver, the edged or the blotched, the hedgehog sort or the laurel-leaved. The best, however, of the scarlet kinds, are the *Minorca* and the *Fœmina*, which are handsome trees, and berry profusely; and next to those, *Shepherd's*, the *Grecian*, the *Madeira*, and the *Scotch*; whilst, of the yellow-berried sorts, the finest are the *Lutea* and the *Flava*. A curious kind is the one called *Tortuous*, and the best of the variegated is the *Golden Queen*; though there are others almost as beautiful—namely, the *Painted Lady*, the *Milkmaid*, and the *Silver Queen*. There are also some weeping hollies—the prettiest of which is the *Pendula variegata*—and some small ones that are suited for rockeries. The holly, like most things, has its uses; for its leaves, boiled down to make "holly tea," have been found to relieve the gout, and an infusion of the bark has cured intermittent fever; whilst the wood is selected by turners for divers purposes. It is also, being of an ivory-white, when peeled, extensively employed in the manufacture of "Tunbridge ware," and when dyed it will pass for ebony; its branches supply materials for sticks and whips, and birdlime is made from their glutinous substance; and though no shrubs are more exempt than the holly from insects, the caterpillar of that beautiful butterfly, the azure-blue, finds in its tough leaves its choicest food.

With our Christmas holly we want ivy, too; as, apart from the time they have so long been associated, there is no better addition to the scarlet berries than linking lengths of ivy; especially if, amongst the common kind, trailers from the woods of the wild "ground" sort are here and there interspersed. Of this small sort there is but one kind, but of the larger ivy there are many varieties grown—thirty, or more—both plain and variegated; and, as the latter include some that are striped or margined with a golden-yellow, or a creamy-white, their sprays add greatly to the leafy beauty of Christmas garlands. Most ivies are of quick growth, but the quickest is the large-leaved Irish. So far from making houses damp, as most folks think, ivy—which Loudon says is "the one and only thing that should be placed against them"—will keep them dry, the rain-drops falling from its glossy leaves; and this the birds well know, as they can nestle there in the wettest weather, and have a snug, warm place to sleep in. Ivy is eagerly eaten by sheep—and mistletoe too—and old shepherds have a liking for its branches in the fold. Its flowers do not show till the autumn, when, unlike the holly, it forms a happy hunting-ground for the Quaker and the Carpet moths, and a multitude of insects; wasps, too, and oftentimes, "a lonely bee, long roving here and there to find a flower," who are then attracted by the store of honey that is to be found in the nectaries of its pale-green blooms. The berries, on which so many birds feed, do not, however, ripen till the following spring, when the dulcet song of the black-cap, on his return here in April, will very soon tell of their whereabouts.

Ground-ivy, which blossoms in April, is used in the country for coughs and colds; and the leaves of the larger kind are of service for the eye, the ear, and the chest, and—following the advice of Gerard—"for weak and aching backs." In Germany they were used as a preventive against the wasting away of children, and an extract from the berries, and a gum from the stalks, have also been credited with beneficial properties; and the latter, as the leaves, too, forms the basis, in England, of a "certain cure for corns;" and ivy-berries, crushed in powder, were given, in vinegar, during the great plague in London, with advantage, it is said, to those who were affected. The leaves bitter ale, and improve its flavour, a fact, it is reported, some brewers are aware of. In ivy there is always a charm; whether clinging "to withered tree, to old, grey stone,"

greening with its beauty—as at Horton and at Isleworth—the grey church towers, or massing into majesty such ruins as Kenilworth, where it holds the stone together, and serves to link the memories of the past.

"A Christmas Day, without a mistletoe, is most unlucky." So runs the rural saying in those districts where most farm-houses are, and where "the bush" invariably hangs all the year between the hams and flitches. As the mistletoe is found chiefly on apple-trees, its growth is greatest in the cider counties. Next to the apple, it grows most on the poplar, where its bunches show like the nest of some monster bird; and it also is found on the pear and the willow, as well as on the maple, the ash, the thorn, and the lime, on which—by squeezing the bruised berries within the bark—it readily can be propagated. In Scotland the mistletoe—as holly and ivy, in America—is almost unknown. In France it is most abundant on the almond-tree; and in Spain, and about Jerusalem, it infests the olive. Its use with us is confined to Christmas customs; but a few centuries ago its branches were carried on New-Year's Day, by young men and maidens, from house to house, as a seasonal gift of friendship; and at the present day the same custom obtains in some parts of France. Bird-lime is generally made from the holly, but it can also be made from the mistletoe berries, those berries so dear to blackbirds, fieldfares, and thrushes; and it is the larger species of the latter bird—the missel thrush—that is credited with the cause of the increase of its growth on trees. The wood, and the leaves of it, have both been used in the treatment of epilepsy and convulsive diseases, but they are not so used at the present day. As the mistletoe absorbs, as a parasite, the sap of the tree it grows on, it is not liked by those dwelling in cider districts, who say of an orchard where that plant abounds, "There is too much mistletoe in it for it to do much good."

In the time of the Druids, mistletoe—called "all heal"—grew on the oak, and it was from that tree they always cut it; but now, to find it growing there is a very rare thing indeed—so rare, that such oaks have the name given them of "mistletoe oaks," and there are, if we mistake not, but eight such oaks in England, of which the three finest are in Herefordshire—at Tedstone Delamere, in the forest of Deerfold, and at Eastnor Park. Then, there is one near Plymouth, and one in Surrey—at Burningfold Farm, Durnsfold; and the other three are to be found, respectively, at Frampton-on-Severn, in Gloucestershire; at Sudbury Park, Chepstow, and at Hlackwood Park, Basingstoke; and those, we believe, complete the list.

The supply of English holly for the London markets is chiefly derived from Kent; but a good deal of it comes from Guildford, as also mistletoe; and in a profuse year a large quantity of it is obtained from the apple-orchards of Worcestershire, Herefordshire, and Gloucestershire, though the greater part of what is grown there is, after supplying the home county towns, sent off to Birmingham, Liverpool, and Manchester. Holly, on the spot, is sold very cheaply, and hence the profit to the retailer well repays his trouble. The average price at market in an ordinary season is for common holly from 6d. a bundle to 45 per ton; and for variegated from 5s. to 6s. per bundle to £20 per load. Mistletoe fetches from 6d. a branch to £6 per ton, though a well-berried, handsome bush will sell at 10s. The foreign holly comes from the orchards of Normandy and Brittany, and it is also sent from the Channel Islands, Guernsey and Jersey. The largest lots go to the Borough Market and to Covent Garden, and are thence distributed. The winter evergreens are supplied from the cuttings of suburban shrubberies; the ivy, from gardens; and the "Christmas-trees," from fir-plantations, and from the London nurserymen. Holly this year is well berried. Let us hope its coral will soon shine on happy faces; and, though the passing year has been a long and dreary one, and winter comes thus early, yet, as Cowper says, "let the months go round, a few short months, and all shall be restored." Then, leaves will unfold again, and flowers merge on "from bud to beauty."

SHELLEY BEAUCHAMP.

NEW BOOKS.

"Obstacles, even impossibilities, never stop translators, and one cannot be surprised, therefore, at the feat performed in *The Odyssey of Homer*, done into English prose by S. H. Butcher, M.A., and A. Lang, M.A. (Macmillan and Co.), for the pair of excellent scholars have at least given themselves a chance of telling "that half of the truth" about Homer which consists in the bare interpretation of his words, without any attempt to reproduce the magic of his numbers, and which the interpreters who employ verse for their purpose cannot possibly convey, without modification or amplification, or even travesty, whilst using his song to a measure unknown and uncongenial to his muse. There are some excellent remarks upon this point in the preface with which the translators introduce their work. As for the translation itself, what can be said? It is the old story of mingled success and failure; some passages so excellent as to be beyond praise, some not only unsatisfactory, but, to speak with proper deference and under correction, misrendered to an extent which would be surprising in a schoolboy. Yet, where there is so much evidence of a general superiority, it would savour of petty hypercriticism to dwell upon small details. Attention, however, may be drawn, by way of example, to that passage in the Sixth Book, where Odysseus is likened to a hungry lion, driven by the needs of his belly "to make assay upon the flocks, even within a close-penned fold," as the translators have it, whereas the meaning clearly is that, as the words in the ordinary sense imply, the wild beast would be so reckless in his extremity that he would attempt to run down his prey, even within the walls of a homestead, as famine-stricken wolves will do in our day. The whole point is lost by the translators' version, which, moreover, necessitates a forced and unusual interpretation of a common word. There is another passage, in the Twenty-second Book, where Athene assumes the appearance of a swallow, which seems to have been even more erroneously taken. What, however, are a few blemishes among so many beauties? And what matters it, when the performance, as a whole, is so good, if, as at the ninth line of the First Book, "but" be persistently given as the equivalent of a certain word which clearly requires rather something expressive of consequence or resumption. As for the constant epithets, as they may be called, the epithets, that is, which recur over and over again in connection with the names of persons, and which appear to be as merely conventional as our own, when we speak of a "noble" lord, or an "honourable" member, or a "learned" counsel, or a "venerable" archdeacon, they are, no doubt, among the greatest difficulties encountered by translators of Homer, but they need not cause any more hesitation on the ground of their apparent inapplicability under certain circumstances than is exhibited by the newspaper reporter who, undeterred by incongruity, has no scruple about announcing that "the reverend" gentleman was fined five shillings for being drunk," when, as occasionally happens, so great a misfortune overtakes a clergyman who has, or is believed to have, been previously overtaken by liquor.

Among the works which the late Afghan war has brought

forth, none is more important or valuable than the reprint of Major-General Sir Vincent Eyre's little book entitled "The Kabul Insurrection of 1841-42." During that terrible campaign the author was a Lieutenant of Artillery, and went through all the trying scenes in Kabul itself, as well as the horrors of the Khoord Kabul massacres. He was there wounded, and became one of the prisoners of Akbar Khan, and had to undergo months of suspense with our other unfortunate countrymen, never knowing at what moment their lives might be sacrificed. But Sir Vincent Eyre has lived to earn a high reputation for gallantry by his rescue, during the Indian Mutiny, of a number of civilians who were shut up in the now famous "House of Arrah." They had been beleaguered for some days by a large band of mutineers; and when Eyre heard of it he made a movement with a mere handful of troops, and defeated the enemy, thus saving the lives of about seventy Europeans from certain death. Sir Vincent has retired from the service, and Messrs. Allen and Co. prevailed on him to undertake a new edition of his book, in which he has been assisted by Colonel Malletson, who now fills the place left vacant by Sir John Kaye as the historian of India. The original edition of this book was the first record of the events written by a military man, and one who had performed a part in them; hence its claims to faithfulness. When Akbar Khan carried off his prisoners, after the dreadful massacres of the Khoord Kabul and Jugdulluk, he led them to Badiabad, in the district of Lughman, where they were kept three months. At this place the supply of stationery was small, but the author managed to jot down an account of events while they were still fresh in his memory, and where he could correct details by a reference to his fellow-prisoners, all of whom had been actors in the scenes. From this explanation it will be seen that the account possesses a high claim to accuracy, and something of the quality of a special correspondent's letters from having been all but written on the spot. It was sent down along with Lady Sale's Journal to General Pollock, who had by that time reached Jellalabad. He forwarded the MS. to England, where it was published, and Sir Robert Peel, who delivered some speeches in Parliament on the Afghan war of that time, made long extracts from it. The authenticity and historical character of this book will thus be understood. Anyone wishing to get an account of the first Afghan war, of a handy size and in a readable form, will find it here. Sir Vincent can use the pencil as well as the pen; and a sketch made by him of the Khoord Kabul appeared in the *Illustrated London News* during the late Afghan war. An outline sketch of this subject is given with the work, as well as a view of the city of Cabul, from a sketch by the author.

Amateur theatrical performances have long been a favourite amusement, and they are best managed by the organisation of regular acting clubs. One of the most eminently successful of these institutions is the "University Amateur Dramatic Club" of Cambridge, founded in 1835 by Mr. F. C. Burnand, B.A., of Trinity College in that University, who has since won a good share of popular favour by his literary contributions both to the press and to the stage, for the gratification of the general English public. Mr. Burnand has been induced, at the approach of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its foundation, to gather up his records and personal reminiscences of the early doings of "The A. D. C., Camb.," with continuation to the Lent Term of 1864, in a very pleasant and amusing volume, of which Messrs. Chapman and Hall are the publishers. It may serve as a really useful guide, in many details of management, to others who may undertake the formation or direction of societies of this kind, especially among the members of colleges and public schools, or those of military garrisons, or any local community of gentlemen brought into mutual acquaintance by their official or professional duties. We heartily wish that all such Dramatic Clubs, great and small, wherever a company of educated Englishmen can be found to engage in them, may be animated by the spirit of thorough good-fellowship which Mr. Burnand's lively pages reflect at the present reading.

In *Alice, and other Fairy Plays for Children* (Sonnenschein and Allen) Mrs. Freiligrath Kroecker has happily solved the problem of transferring Mr. Lewis Carroll's unique humour and fancy from the closet to the stage. "Alice in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking-Glass" have been skilfully blended into a single play without damage to any of the familiar favourites in the action of either story, and, with the addition of capital illustrations and music, the success is perfect. The other miniature dramas in the volume are equally well adapted for the juvenile theatre.

An acknowledged want is very well supplied in Mrs. Berens's *Myths and Legends of Ancient Greece and Rome* (Blackie and Son), a volume of Messrs. Blackie's excellent school series. Elegantly printed, and tastefully illustrated with engravings after the antique, this pretty little volume is something more than a popular account of Greek and Roman mythology, for it also conveys, as claimed by the authoress, "a clear and succinct idea of the religious beliefs of the ancients," and "a picture of old Greek life, its customs, its superstitions, and its princely hospitalities. All the stories are exceedingly well told, and young readers will find the book thoroughly attractive.

The Townhall at Dunstable was destroyed by fire on Wednesday morning.

A peer of the realm succeeds Mr. Clerk-Maxwell as Professor of Experimental Physics at Cambridge. The qualifications of Lord Rayleigh for the position were so evident that on the day of election he was the only candidate proposed. The new Professor, then the Hon. J. W. Strutt, graduated at Trinity College as Senior Wrangler and first Smith's Prizeman in 1864. He was an additional examiner for the Mathematical Tripos in 1876.

As Lord Fermoy was entering the Limerick County Club last Saturday night, a man, named James O'Shea, approached him and struck him a blow with a stick. Lord Fermoy fell, and his assailant fled. Some members of the club, however, who witnessed the assault, pursued him. After a sharp chase they caught him, and handed him over to the police. O'Shea had been, it appears, dismissed from his Lordship's service. It is stated that his Lordship has almost recovered from the effects of the assault. O'Shea was tried on Wednesday and sentenced by Baron Dowse to five years' penal servitude.

Besides *Galignani's Messenger*, there are two other newspapers printed in Paris for English readers. The *Boulevard*, issued once a week, is what is known as a society paper, and is very good of its kind. In the *Parisian*, also a weekly, we have a newspaper proper, giving all the French political news; Parisian social, artistic, and theatrical gossip; a weekly review of music and the drama in Paris, current literature, the latest fashions, special articles on living celebrities by well-known writers, and a summary of news from the United States and Europe. Special attention is devoted to art, literature, and biography, and every week a story by a French or an English author is given. This enterprising paper gives this week a special double Christmas number, containing new and original stories and novelettes by James Payn, Henry James, Jun., Frederick Locker, Alphonse Daudet, Jules Claretie, and others.

THE CHURCH.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Bird, S. W. B., to be Vicar of St. Mary Magdalene, Launceston.
Chalmers, W.; Canon of Melbourne.
Collins, J. M.; Rural Dean of Daventry.
Denson, J. Myers; Incumbent of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arbroath.
Hale, W. F.; Assistant-Curate of the United parishes of St. Matthew and St. James, Aldgate.
Kearney, Neville; Incumbent of Croghan, diocese of Elphin.
Leonard, A. A.; Inspector of Schools for the Diocese of Llandaff.
Roids, Gilbert Twenlow; Rector of Haughton.
Simpson, R. J.; Incumbent of Curzon Chapel.
Teulon, J. S.; Prebendary of Ferring in Chichester Cathedral.
Wilson, C. H.; Vicar of Dilton Marsh-with-Chapmanslade, Wilts.—*Gazetier.*

The Rev. William Rogers, Rector of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, was entertained yesterday week by a committee of his parishioners at a dinner at the Albion, and presented with his portrait, in recognition of his exceptional services to the parish and to education.

A handsome monument of Gothic design, executed by Mr. Forsyth, in various marbles and alabaster, surmounted by a richly carved stone canopy, has been erected in Cheriton church, Pembroke, to the late Captain the Hon. Ronald Campbell (Coldstream Guards). He served in the Zulu war as staff officer to Colonel Sir Evelyn Wood, and fell on the Zlobane Mountain, on March 28 last, in the performance of a most gallant deed. His portrait has appeared in this Journal.

A handsome stained-glass window has been placed in the east end of St. Mary's Church, Warwick. The subjects illustrated are, in the centre lights, the Supper at Emmaus and the Sermon on the Mount; and in the side lights, events from the life of Christ; in the tracery pieces are figures of apostles and prophets. The glass is executed in the fifteenth-century style of work in keeping with the architecture of the chancel. The window was executed by Messrs. Heaton, Butler, and Bayne.

St. John's Church, Brighton, which was erected about forty years since by the Rev. H. M. Wagner, the late Vicar of Brighton, was reopened yesterday week, after having been closed for about eighteen months for repairs. The building, which is in the Grecian style of architecture, and has been restored in harmony therewith, will seat some 1600 persons. It was formerly noted for the elaborate ritual with which the former Incumbent, the Rev. A. A. Morgan, conducted its services. Since then the present Vicar of Brighton, the Ven. Archdeacon Hannah, has constituted it the centre of a district parish, with the Rev. R. H. Raines as successor to Mr. Morgan as its Vicar. The district is a poor one, and the Bishop of Chichester, who preached the sermon at the reopening services, commended it to the consideration of the wealthy.

The Bishop of Rochester has issued a long pastoral letter to his clergy on lay work. He says that within a triangle of which Woolwich is the apex, and Putney and Streatham the extremities of the base, there is a population of 1,300,000 with only 332 clergy. The parochial system he considers to be, under such circumstances, not so much destroyed as submerged, and new and living instrumentalities are needed to overtake the arrears of work; but the Church may, he considers, have yet greater triumphs before her than any she has yet achieved if "she will consent to doff the somewhat chilly sedateness she has inherited from generations of high-backed pews, and if, with teaching that the working classes can understand, and services that they can follow, and hymns that they can grasp, and music that they can sing, she will try to persuade them into the fold of Christ." His Lordship dwells on a number of schemes for the effectual carrying on of lay agency, the only actually new one being that of lay preachers.

"CHARACTER SKETCHES FROM DICKENS."

A clever artist and humourist, Mr. Frederick Barnard, has made a series of drawings, each of a single figure, giving his conception of several leading characters in the popular stories for which all the world is so grateful to Charles Dickens. These designs are reproduced, by Mr. T. Robertson, in lithographic plates of a large size, suitable for framing to be suspended on a wall, which Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin have published, and one of which, "Mr. Pickwick," they have allowed us to copy in our page Engraving. The subjects are six in number, "Mrs. Gamp," "Alfred Jingle," "Bill Sykes," "Little Dorrit," "Sidney Carton," and "Mr. Pickwick." It is not the best selection that could have been found, Sidney Carton being an insignificant type of character, and Miss Dorrit, the Marshalsea prisoner's daughter, of less originality than pathetic interest from her situation. The ruthlessly force and grim ferocity of Sykes, the housebreaker, who becomes the murderer of Nancy, in "Oliver Twist," may be considered to have got an adequate representation at the artist's hands. As for Mr. Pickwick, the first and best creation, some think, of the gifted author, we could have wished to see him in a more dignified plight. Mr. Barnard, however, presents to us a correct illustration of one of the undeniable incidents of Pickwickian experience, which will be the recollection of every reader. It is above forty years since that droll story was told, and those who read it in their youth have it still fresh in their minds to this day. The good old gentleman, being one of the guests of Mr. Wardle at a picnic party in the pleasant fields of Kent, has been too easily persuaded to drink a glass of cold milk punch, "and another glass, just to see whether there was any orange-peel in the punch, because orange-peel always disagreed with him," and then another glass, "in honour of the unknown punch compounder," besides remembering the health of present and absent friends. It is a little too much for him, as his expressive countenance already betrays.

The emigrants from the Mersey last month were 10,141, an increase of 6253 on the figures for November last year.

The Victoria Cross has been awarded to Capt. in (now Major) Edward Pemberton Leach, Royal Engineers, for his determination and gallantry in an action with the Shinwaris, near Maidana, Afghanistan, on March 17, 1879.

St. Patrick's Church, Ballymena, beautifully situated within the demesne of Old Waveney, which was completed and opened for Divine service in 1855, was completely destroyed by fire on Saturday last.

The Rev. T. W. Sharp, one of her Majesty's inspectors, gave an address at the annual gathering of the students of the British and Foreign School Society's College in the Borough-road, yesterday week, and it was announced that the trustees of the Protestant Dissenters' Charity School having discontinued the school the funds belonging to it, more than £6000 will be devoted to granting exhibitions for the students of the college.

The fifth anniversary festival of the Dairymen's Benevolent Institution was held on the 11th inst., at the Freemasons' Tavern, Mr. H. W. Neville in the chair. Covers were laid for 300. In proposing the toast of the evening, the chairman said the most recent Parliamentary returns showed that the metropolitan dairymen were more than 6000 in number. The list of the night's subscriptions announced amounted to £550, including 100 guineas from the chairman.



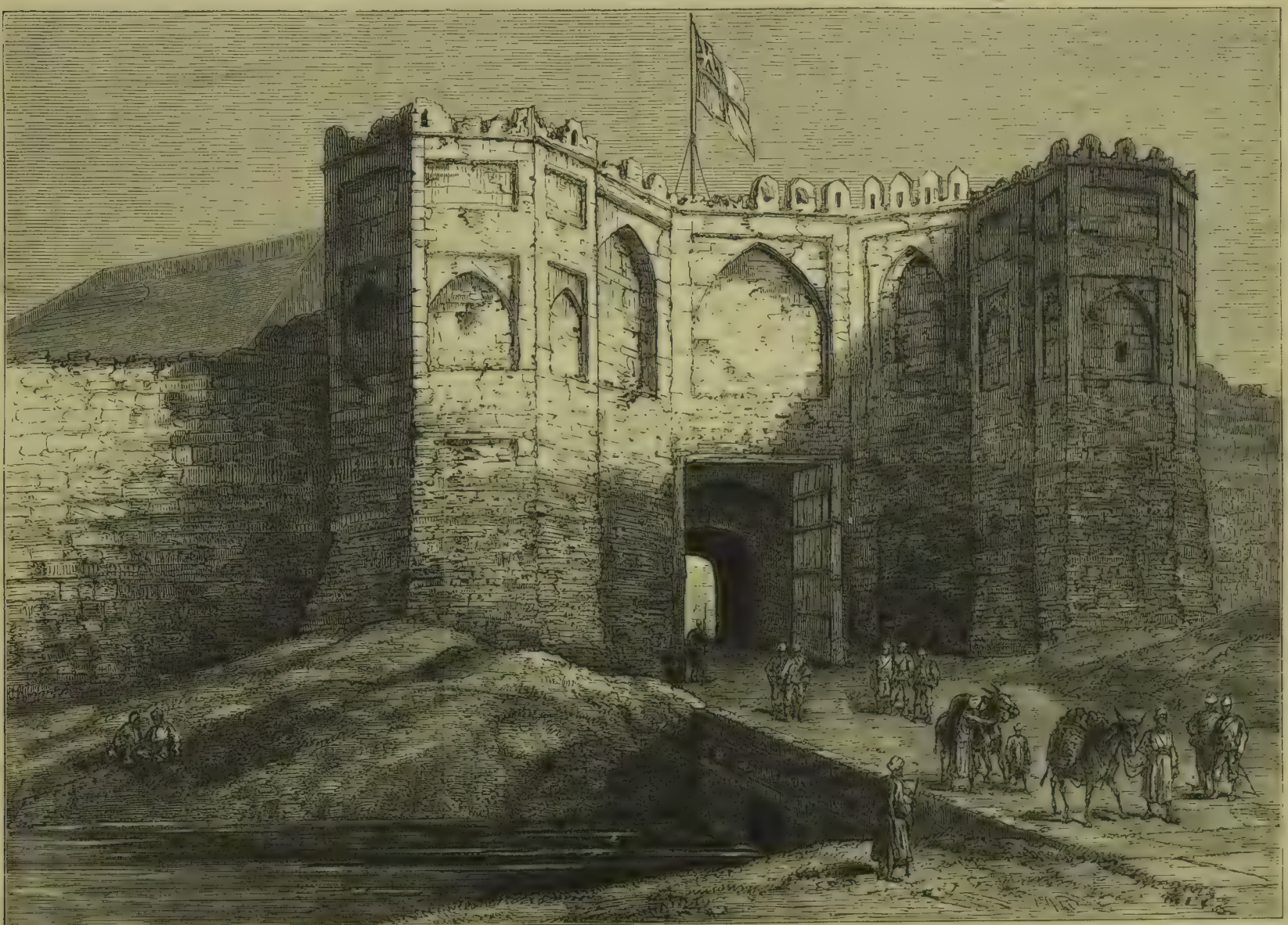
MR. PICKWICK.—ONE OF MR. F. BARNARD'S "CHARACTER SKETCHES FROM DICKENS."
PUBLISHED BY MESSRS. CASSELL, PETTER, AND GALPIN.—SEE PAGE 575.

THE OCCUPATION OF CABUL.

SEE PAGE 570.



INTERIOR OF THE BRITISH RESIDENCY, LOOKING SOUTH.



THE LAHORE GATE OF THE BALA HISSAR.

Extra Supplement.

"INTERRUPTED!"

Here is a "parlous" conspiracy of knights and gentlemen-at-arms, in the troublous times of the Tudors, with the frequent treasonable plotting, which has its compromising documents kept in those unlocked caskets that lie upon the table and the floor. These have been secretly brought to the rural mansion of Sir John Fastness, Knight, an elderly magnate of the shire and disappointed ex-courtier, who became a leader of the rebellious faction. How unfortunate that his fair young wife should have risen from her couch, uneasy at her lord's protracted sitting in the hall after supper, and ignorant of the arrival of his visitors, should come to see if he has not fallen asleep over a tumbler of wine! Let us invoke the spirit of Sir Walter Scott to report the scene which must have ensued, and the excuses, inquiries, and false explanations.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- From BENTLEY and SON:
Hiccup's Choice. By Rosa Nouchette Carey. 3 vols.
BOGUE:
The Royal Guide to London Charities for 1879-80. By Heilbert Fry. Edited by C. E. Pascoe.
The Dramatic List: A Record of the Performances of Living Actors and Actresses on the British Stage. Boosey and Co.:
Songs of France: Sixty Songs and Romances. With French and English Words.
Songs of England: Two Hundred English Melodies. Edited by J. L. Hatton. Vol. II.
CASSELL, PETER, and GALPIN:
The Countries of the World. By R. Brown.
CHAPMAN and HALL:
A Year in Peshawar, and A Lady's Ride into the Khyber Pass. By L. R. Trevelyan.
Chronicles of No-Man's Land. A Third Series of "Camp Notes." By J. Boyle.
CHIATTO and WINDUS:
The Marquess Wellesley, Architect of Empire. An Historic Portrait. By W. M. Torrens, M.P.
Elizabethan Demonology. An Essay. By Thomas Alford Spalding.
The Dead Hand. By Sir A. Hobhouse.
Rough Ways Made Smooth: Familiar Essays on Scientific Subjects. By B. A. Proctor.
Haunted London. By Walter Thornbury. Edited by E. Walford.
A Necklace of Stories. By Moncure Conway.
Confidence. By Henry James, Junior.
CROSBY LOCKWOOD and CO.:
Every Man's Own Lawyer. Seventeenth Edition.
The Boy's Own Book. An Encyclopedia of Sports and Pastimes.
FROWDE:
La Sainte Bible. Traduits sur les Textes Originaux Hébreux et Grecs. By Louis Segond.
GRIFFITH and FARRAN:
Worthless Laurels. By Emily Carrington. Three vols.
The Boy's Own Toy Maker. By E. Landells. With 200 Engravings.
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Messrs. Marcus Ward and Co. have published their "Concise Diaries" for the New Year. These diaries are exceedingly convenient for the pocket, as they are divided into four parts, being one for each quarter. The cases are of fine russet leather, with numerous pockets.

The London Stereoscopic Company have provided in their guinea box of ingenious and playful apparatus, for the amusement of Christmas, New-Year's Eve, and Twelfth Night parties; with a great variety of optical, photographic, electrical, and other surprising effects, as is the way of "Science in Sport."

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The British Almanack and Companion for 1880, originally started by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, is still most useful and instructive. The "Companion" for next year presents distinct and brief treatises upon the Royal Mint, Cyprus, Temperance, Retirement Houses, South Africa, the heliograph, the deaf and dumb, the rating of chronometers, the progress of London, and the London School Board. The art-exhibitions, music, scientific inventions, Parliamentary legislation, and social events of the past year are carefully recorded.

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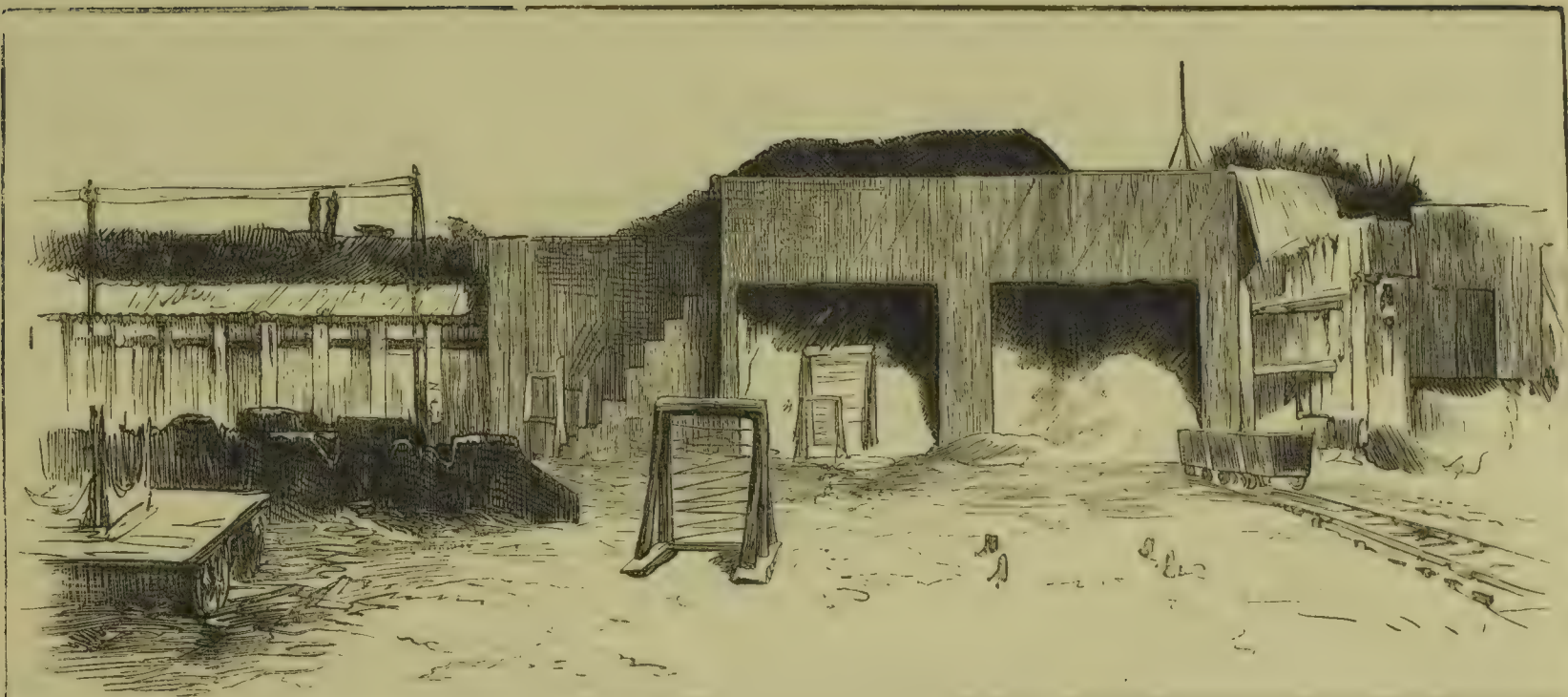
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PREPARATIONS FOR TESTING THE THUNDERER'S THIRTY-EIGHT TON GUN AT WOOLWICH.

THE THUNDERER GUN EXPERIMENTS.

Since Tuesday of last week, a series of experiments has been going on, day after day, with some interruption, at the proof butts in the Government Marshes adjoining the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. The disastrous explosion of a 38-ton gun in one of the turrets on board her Majesty's ship *Thunderer* in the Sea of Marmora occurred on Jan. 2 last. The committee of investigation into the cause of the explosion assembled at Malta on the 24th of the same month. The period since has been occupied in considering the committee's report, and in preparations for carrying out their recommendations. The explosion had been caused, in the committee's opinion, by the gun having been inadvertently double loaded—first with a cartridge of 85 lb. of powder and a Palliser shell of 700 lb.,

and then with a similar cartridge and a common shell of 587 lb.—the ignition of the foremost charge occurring at a part of the gun where the thickness of metal was inadequate to endure the strain. The Lords of the Admiralty on May 1 assented to the recommendation that the second 38-ton gun should be taken from the *Thunderer's* turret and subjected to a series of tests, in order to show that the accident was due not to any defect in the manufacture of the guns, but to circumstances entirely under the control of the gunners. One of the opposing theories was that the wad which is used to keep the projectile from slipping had by some means become displaced, causing the shell to jam, and so making the gun burst.

The committee have made some progress with their experiments. The programme arranged by the Admiralty is to be carried out free from material variation. Among the spectators

were General Gordon, C.B., Royal Artillery, President of the committee; Admiral H. Boys, Director of Naval Ordnance; Colonel Inglis, Royal Engineers; Colonel Maitland, Royal Artillery; Colonel W. H. Noble, Royal Engineers, Inspector of Works, Royal Arsenal; Lord Charles Beresford, M.P., Commander Royal Navy; Major F. Ellis, R.A., Secretary of the Experimental Branch; Captain O'Brien, R.E., Assistant-Inspector of Works, and others. The 38-ton gun was seen peeping from a cell in a mound facing the proof butts. It was mounted upon an ordinary naval carriage and platform, and all the arrangements were made to approximate as nearly as possible to circumstances on board ship. There was not much room to spare inside the cell, which was only about 10 ft. square at the front and some 30 ft. long, just sufficient to allow for the recoil. The interior

is faced with balks of timber, overlaid with heavy pigs of iron and several feet of concrete, upon which earth is heaped until a hillock is formed 35 ft. in height and 200 ft. in circumference. When at the final round the gun is double loaded and bursts as predicted there need be no fear of consequences to the spectators. One of the new bays at the old butts was used for the first time, and the improvements under the direction of Colonel Noble were considered highly satisfactory. The usual preparations were made for taking exact records of velocities, pressures, and other circumstances, and a novelty was observed in the shape of a wooden screen in front of the sand bank, the object being to preserve a vertical face to the sand, and thereby it was hoped to counteract a tendency of the projectiles to turn upwards.

The experiments hitherto made have been chiefly designed to try whether or not the gun would burst with a considerable vacant space left between the powder-cartridge and the shot or shell, as some persons were of opinion that, in the gun which did actually burst on board the ship, this derangement had accidentally taken place by the shell having slipped forward. It is now proved, however, that with an interval of six feet between the greatest charge of powder and the heaviest shot there is no injury to the gun, and the space will be increased to eight or ten feet, with little apparent probability of bursting. The committee will finally try if they cannot burst this gun by firing it with a double charge of powder and shells, as they suppose the other gun to have been twice loaded in the case of that lamentable disaster a twelvemonth ago.

THE SYDNEY EXHIBITION.

The opening, on Sept. 17, of the International Exhibition at Sydney, New South Wales, has already been the subject of an illustration in this Journal, from a Sketch by our Special Artist. We now present a view of the "Garden Palace," as it is popularly called, erected for the Exhibition, with the buildings provided to shelter the machinery and live stock, and with the beautiful shores of Sydney Harbour extending some miles beyond. The portraits of Lord Augustus Loftus, now Governor of New South Wales, who performed the opening ceremony, the Earl of Belmore, a former Governor, who is President of the Exhibition Commission in London, Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart., Vice-President, and Mr. P. A. Jennings, Executive Commissioner at Sydney, appear in this Number.

We have on two previous occasions described the Exhibition Palace, which is situated in that portion of the Sydney public park known as the Inner Domain, overlooking the Botanic Gardens and the harbour, the rear being towards Macquarie-street. The building consists of a nave 800 ft. long, a transept 500 ft. long, two aisles, with annexes and galleries, four towers, and a central dome, which is 210 ft. high and 100 ft. in diameter, roofed with iron; it is lighted by twenty-six windows, in a lantern, and by a skylight at the foot of the lantern. It covers about one-third of the space occupied by the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park at the Exhibition of 1851. The interior is coloured with yellow and light-blue, and with lines of red. The general plan of the edifice is apparent in our View presented this week; the front elevation was shown in a former illustration. It will be observed that the rear range of building is one storey high; the front part, facing towards the north-east, has two storeys, and the towers are of three, rising at each of the four sides, there being one at each end of the nave and one at the end of each transept. With reference to the site of the Palace, it may be well to mention that Government house, distinguished by the flag, is seen at the extreme left of our View, to the west, in which direction also lies the town of Sydney; along the shore to the right-hand of the Palace are Farm Cove, Watson's Bay, and other conspicuous inlets, with Garden Island, Shark Island, and Clark Island; but the opposite land is the north shore of the harbour, as far as North Head and Bradley's Head, where lies the entrance from the open sea.

The distinguished persons connected with this Exhibition, whose portraits we give, must be noticed more particularly. The Governor, Lord Augustus Loftus, is the fourth son of the second Marquis of Ely, and was born in 1817, and educated at Trinity College, Cambridge. Entering the diplomatic service, he acted as Chargé-d'Affaires at Berlin in the years 1853, 1855, 1857; was appointed Envoy at Vienna in March, 1858; transferred to Berlin in December, 1860; to Munich in 1862; returned to Berlin in 1865; was accredited to the North German Confederation in 1868, and appointed Ambassador at St Petersburg in July, 1871. He was appointed Governor of New South Wales in January of this year, and arrived at that Colony in the first week of August. He married, in 1845, the second daughter of Admiral H. F. Greville.

The Earl of Belmore (Somerset Richard Lowry-Corry) son of the third Irish peer of that title, was born in 1835, was educated at Cambridge, and was elected a representative peer to sit in the House of Lords in 1857. He was Under-Secretary for the Home Department in 1866 and 1867 under Lord Derby's Government, and in January, 1868, was appointed Governor of New South Wales, where he resided till 1872. He married, in 1861, a daughter of Captain John Gladstone, R.N. Lord Belmore has done useful service in Parliamentary inquiries and legislative measures for the better regulation of railways, the improved auditing of public accounts, Irish University and intermediate education, and in the suppression of abuses in the Polynesian labour traffic. He was President of the London Commission this year for the Sydney Exhibition, and a member also of the Royal Commission for the Sydney and Melbourne Exhibitions, of which the Prince of Wales is President.

Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart., K.C.M.G., formerly Speaker of the New South Wales House of Assembly, was born in that colony in 1821, but received his education in England. He returned to New South Wales in 1843, and in 1849 was elected one of the Legislative Council. In 1856, when a Parliamentary Constitution was set on foot, he entered the Assembly, and was chosen its Speaker, to which office he was several times reappointed after general elections of the Assembly. He promoted the construction of the first railway, from Sydney to Paramatta, and was one of its directors. He also supported the establishment of the Sydney University and the Grammar School, being at one time a member of the Senate of the former and a trustee of the latter; and he established a scholarship at the University and contributed liberally, with others, to the ornamentation of the great hall, which is one of the largest and handsomest belonging to any University. In 1861 Sir Daniel, for the benefit of his health and the education of his family, came to England, where he has resided since, making periodical visits to Australia; but he has never been idle. During the late Sir Charles Cowper's illness he helped him in the duties of Agent-General, and at his death temporarily filled the office of Agent-General. At this period he negotiated with the other Agents-General to duplicate the telegraph cables to Australia, which failed for the time, but has lately led to a successful agreement. He also, with Sir Julius Vogel, negotiated for the laying of the telegraph cable between Sydney and New Zealand, and also the present packet contract between Sydney, New Zealand, and San Francisco. Sir D. Cooper, in 1862, represented his colony at the International Exhibition, and he has occupied the same

position at each International Exhibition in Paris, Vienna, Philadelphia, and Paris again. For some years he was connected with the Society of Arts and the Royal Horticultural Society, and aided much in the Grand International Horticultural Show of 1866, of which he was the treasurer. He has laboured to improve the warehousing and sale of Australian wool in London; and has, almost single-handed, caused improvements to be made and reductions in charges which must cause a saving of many thousands a year to the Australian sheep farmer. He was knighted in 1857, and raised to the baronetcy in 1863.

Mr. Patrick Alfred Jennings, C.M.G., was born in 1831, at Newry, in Ireland, the son of a merchant in that town. He went to Australia in 1852, and was tolerably successful at the gold-fields, where he was among the first to introduce quartz-crushing machinery. He afterwards engaged in pastoral enterprise in the Riverina district of Victoria. In 1866, he accepted a nomination to the Legislative Council of New South Wales. This he resigned in 1870, to become representative of the Murray district in the Assembly, where he sat in two Parliaments, taking a leading part in the discussion of fiscal affairs between New South Wales and Victoria. He was a Commissioner to represent New South Wales, Queensland, and Tasmania, at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition of the United States, in 1876. In December, 1878, he was to have taken office in the proposed Robertson Ministry, but there was a change of political conditions. He has been, during some years, Vice-President of the New South Wales Agricultural Society, and his active exertions this year, as Executive Commissioner of the present Exhibition, have contributed greatly to its success.

Our Portrait of Lord A. Loftus is from a photograph by C. Roesch, of St. Petersburg; that of Lord Belmore, from one by Mr. Chancellor, of Dublin; and that of Sir Daniel Cooper, one by Mr. T. Fall, of Baker-street, London.

INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.

As a winter exhibition, nominally of "sketches and studies," which does not pretend to show the members' principal work of the year, this present collection may be regarded as rather above than below the average, though the improvement is not nearly so marked as at the parent society's gallery farther east in Pall-mall. Two innovations, both of them highly judicious as we think, have to be noted in the personal constitution of this society and the arrangement of its exhibition. One of these is the removal of the distinction between "members" and "associates," every artist elected into the society being now a "member"—a liberal step warmly to be commended to the elder society. Every accepted artist should, we think, be admitted to the deliberations (for is there not "wisdom in the multitude of councillors?") the rights and privileges of the artists who have elected him into their body. The differences in the degrees of talent of these water-colour painters is not in general so great as to necessitate an invidious distinction which seems to have originated in a somewhat ostentatious imitation of the Royal Academy constitution, nor does the system of succession at the Old Society seem to be worked even on a fair or defined principle. We have known artists remain for very many years on the Associate list, while others much more recently elected, and most certainly not of superior merit, have been promoted to the full honour of membership. The other innovation at the Institute is the appropriation of the small room at the end of the long gallery for the display (in the winter gatherings at least) of drawings in black and white. The Institute, like the elder society, comprises several first-rate draughtsmen for the wood engraver, and this collection of genuine "studies and sketches" in black and white is not only very interesting in itself, but serves to show the strength of the younger body as regards the essentials of draughtsmanship and design.

Among the absentees from this exhibition is the worthy president, Mr. Louis Haghe, and we regret to hear that this may be attributed to serious illness.

We cannot do better than commence our observations in detail than with Mr. T. Collier's large and noble drawing "A Deer Park in the Southern Downs" (271), an extensive view of this truly magnificent scenery with the lines, graceful as grand, of its great rolling masses, and a shadowy wood stretching through the prodigious hollow that sweeps free as a huge sea trough, far away from our feet, and to the mountain waves that it feeds and flings up right and left towards the heavens. By much the finest work the artist has done, this drawing, without reminding us so much of David Cox as Mr. Collier did formerly, yet recalls the simple broad unity and power of the early masters of water-colour. Mr. J. D. Linton's "Flag of Truce" (68) is distinguished by his able painting of characteristic heads, and the elaboration he imparts so conscientiously and only too equally to all textures; but otherwise it is not a happy example. In a courtyard just within the walls of a beleaguered city of the Low Countries apparently, and in the seventeenth century, a mounted trooper bearing the white flag is receiving the message to the besiegers from the city magnates, who stand at a portal to the right. This is, of course, the natural reading of the incident; but the expressions of these ancient personages seem so denunciatory and irate, as well as resolute, that one might suppose that the flag of truce had come from the besiegers with unacceptable terms. There is indeed, as usual, some ambiguity in the dramatic expressions: the attitudes of the trooper, horse, and attendant are awkward, and the composition straggling. In another drawing of a girl holding, rather stiffly, a tumbler of forget-me-nots (245), the execution is superior, though we find the artist indulging (as with the soldiers in the last drawing) his partiality for costumes that are rather outré than picturesque. The fashion of the dress in this instance seems to be German of near the Maximilian time. Refined and tender as Mr. H. G. Hine cannot fail to be, we have seen him to more advantage than in the view of the "Chalk Cliffs at Cuckmere, Sussex" (241), seen through a veil of misty spray from the lashing waves below. It may be observed generally that repeated washings of the paper, while procuring delicacy and breadth of tone, is too apt to result in dulness, vapidness, and "woolliness." Mr. Hargitt appears prominently and very creditably in his powerful and richly coloured drawing, "Near Capel Curig" (260). Mr. Houston also is favourably represented in "Kilchurn Castle" (95) and other landscapes, and in a little figure-picture of a child asleep with its doll (52); and Mr. Harry Johnson is at his best in "Haunted" (91), a deserted ruinous cottage with strangely distorted window-panes, dimly discerned in a weird twilight, as the hare glances rustling through the wild overgrowth of the long-neglected garden, and the will-o'-the-wisp floats along the marshy hollow. All Mr. Edwin Hayes's small sketches for sea-pieces are very spirited and skilful. An elegant pictorial feeling pervades Mr. Leitch's landscapes, particularly the small ones, though some are a little heavy in tone. Mr. W. L. Thomas has exhibited nothing so good as his series of subjects from Switzerland. Of these the prettiest is that of the girl in the quaint "Sunday" costume of

"Appenzel" (107) watering her flowers at the chalet casement; and the most impressive "The Ribbon Road, St. Gothard's Pass" (287)—the road so named from its long, winding, apparently narrow course along the ledges of the gigantic gorge, though still more remarkable than this view is the numerous lappings of the road among the savage rocks nearer the summit. A word of warm praise is due to the child-head, about lifesize, called "A Pleasant Thought" (272), by Miss Emily Farmer.

The lately elected and younger members are fairly represented. Mr. Seymour Lucas has an effective drawing, "A Question of Date" (29), a dilettante in costume of last century dubiously eyeing one of the huge tilting helms of the fifteenth century. Sir Coutts-Lindsay sends sketches, quite up to the professional level in competency, of some of the numerous convents of Mount Athos (Nos. 99 and 254) and a view in Troas—a picturesque, little-known world. By Lady Lindsay there is a lifesize, carefully modelled head of an Italian boy, "Antonino" (111). Mr. Fulleylove's exterior and interior views at Hampton Court (64 and 251) afford promise. "Waiting for Water, Venice, 7.55 a.m." (265), by Mr. Frank Topham, is the best drawing by him we have seen: water girls or *acquaiole*, with their copper pails near the fountain in the first cortile of the Ducal Palace waiting for the striking of the hour to draw water—the fountains at Venice being opened at stated times twice a day. Messrs. Walter Wilson, Clausen, and Hugh Carter have each gone to Holland for materials and themes. The first, in his largely and boldly handled "Jilted" (228)—a little Dutch girl forsaking a whimpering boy with a boat for another with an apple—has made a notable advance, though his effects of light are still too flickering. In the black-and-white room is the long series of this artist's very clever and lively pen-and-ink illustrations to Mr. C. Pascoe's "Dramatic Notes," which will afford a fund of pleasure and amusement to playgoers. Mr. Carter's Dutch baby, "Left Alone" (105), in its tall, lumbering wooden chair and table combined, and other drawings, are evidently inspired by Israels; but the artist has hardly caught the suggestive air of accident in the master's execution. Mr. Clausen evinces steady progress in his Dutch scene (60) on a canal towing-path, over which hang the mists of "early morning," with a man tracking a barge, and a buxom lass trudging along under the yoke that supports her baskets laden with farm produce. Mr. Walter May, too, is fond of the canals, and polders, and schuyts, and pinks of Holland (though not to the exclusion of other neighbouring coasts and craft), and he, likewise, is wearing ahead. "Dutch Boats, Alkmaar" (305), "Evening at St. Malo" (57), and others, have, in addition to thorough nautical knowledge, a modesty of execution, a refinement of colour, and a sober truthfulness generally, which must be sought out to be appreciated as they deserve to be. "Beechy Island, Winter Quarters of Sir John Franklin, 1845-6" (177), a monochrome drawing by this artist, is authenticated, we believe, by Mr. May's own Arctic experience in early life. Another artist whose aim at refinement and simplicity is commendable, and who also attains much breadth without, as formerly, obvious imitation of David Cox, is Mr. Orrock. But, valuable as breadth is in all art, we must submit that the quality might be displayed in scenery of more interest than that of the "Lincolnshire Coast," although enlivened by cart and horse, and men scouring the sea-margin for shrimps, as we see in No. 37, or by "Shrimpers Unloading" (12)—two of Mr. Orrock's largest drawings. Similar in subject to these is "Smelt-Fishing on the East Coast" (106) and other works by E. C. Holloway, together with the conscientiously executed scenes from the Norfolk coast by C. J. Staniland. Welcome are several contributions, illustrative of the wonders of the animal world, by Mr. Wolf, who, for learning as a naturalist and learning informed by imaginative, and artistic insight—stands almost alone. In "Storks starting for the South" (55) the air is alive with the rising birds, as they soar to fall in, with military accuracy, along the wedge-shaped column already formed in the sky, whilst hundreds still await on the plain their turn to rise. The other drawings are in chalk: "The Merlin," literally "stalking his prey" (186) of goldfinches among thistles; "Storm on the Alps" (160), chamois, ptarmigan, and even the timid hare crowding together for shelter from wind and snow about a sheltering pine; and a pair, "Night" (154), a lion prowling as a rifle flashes upon him (similar to a subject we have engraved), and "Morning" (173), a lion lying dead with a bullet-hole in his side.

The group of painters known also as draughtsmen for wood-engraving, which includes Messrs. C. Green, W. Small, William Simpson, H. Herkomer, and others, are not largely represented in colour; whilst John Tenniel, E. J. Gregory, and others are absent altogether. Several painters in this category have been influenced in water-colours by the practice of the late Frederick Walker, particularly as regards the use of body colour, as they have in illustrative work by his exquisite precision. C. Green has two small figures, a lady reading "The Lady's Magazine for 1820" (356), herself dressed in the hideous fashion of that date; and an attitudinising beau of 1793 (357). The most important drawing by W. Small is "Drying Herring Nets—Banff" (277), with many good qualities, barring harshness of colouring. But by both these artists there are in the small room several series of designs for novels and other illustrations. On these we have not space to expatiate, and can only mention *en passant* Mr. Green's capital studies of horsey rascals and their dupes in "Racecourse Outsiders" (151)—studies made probably for his "Derby Day." The visitor, however, cannot fail to highly esteem drawings which have gone triumphantly through the trying ordeal of satisfying at once the authors, the public, and the publishers. And some may recall the fact that the present vastly extended application of illustrative art to newspapers and other publications has served to develop the powers, not of several only, but of very many of the leading artists of the day. To the able, adventurous, and learned draughtsman, Mr. William Simpson, the *Illustrated London News* and its readers are too much indebted as an artistic correspondent from all parts of the world, not for the two coloured sketches he has sent here (but nothing in simple black and white) to be encountered with much pleasure. One represents the magnificent snow-clad "Suffield Koh Range, Afghanistan, from near Gundamuck" (115); the other (247) the arrival of Dr. Brydon at Jellalabad, "The Sole Survivor" of the massacre of 1842, painted from sketches on the spot and descriptions lately furnished to the artist by Major Bailey, an eye-witness of Dr. Brydon's arrival—the subject treated so pathetically also by Miss Thompson. Mr. Herkomer's sole contribution is an etching of his own head (184); but this is the best etching we have seen by him: note also the pretty group of a couple of children embracing each other in the corner of the plate. Mr. A. O. Gow, who as a painter may be classed with these artists, has a highly-finished excellent drawing, "Stragglers" (78)—wounded soldiers in a barn, a little girl (why such a starveling?) entering the door. Miss Mary L. Gow deserves all encouragement for the decided advance shown in "The Epilogue to 'Romula'" (101)—Romula with a boy at her knee, whom she is teaching.

Among works by other artists—mostly those whose characteristics are known to the public—we must be content to

mention "Camels at a Watering-Place, Jaffa" (285), by R. Beavis (whose Academy picture, "En Route to Mecca," we lately engraved); another camel study (39), by Guido Bach; "On the Welsh Coast" (282), by J. Syer—which seems to have more of the conventional quality of early works than usual; "None are so blind as those who won't see" (295), by Towneley Green; "Marianina" (367), by E. Bale; sketch by J. Aumonier, very true to nature in general aspect, and others refined in colour by Harry Hine. Venetian and other subjects by W. Wyld; studies with sunset and other effects by J. Mogford; "Pianosa, Coast of Corsica" (326), by J. G. Philp, whose painting has improved with change of scene; "Mountain Road" (75), by E. M. Wymperis; "Greenwich Hospital" (40), by F. J. Skill; "Contrast—Moncontour, Brittany" (11), by J. Absalom; "Naples and Vesuvius" (206), from the unfinished and ruinous palace of Queen Joan, at Posilippo, by C. Vacher; a large drawing of a lady trying the effect of a Royalist favour in a mirror (49), by G. G. Kilburne, whose smaller work we much prefer; sketches in Spain and Algiers by Mrs. E. Murray; "A Surrender" (331) by C. Cattermole; "Shellfish Gatherers" (225) by R. Carriek; a rough and ludicrous sketch of a country bumpkin with a kid called "Jack's Darling" (222) by H. B. Roberts, not worthy of the painter; architectural subjects by J. L. Wood; landscapes by J. H. Mole, E. G. Warren, J. W. Whympier; Fahey senior and junior, Penson and Pidgeon, and still-life by Mrs. Duffield and J. Sherrin.

The forthcoming exhibition at the Grosvenor Gallery, which will open Jan. 1 next, will contain a number of works by Dutch artists.

In the distribution of prizes to the Royal Academy students last week the silver medal for a painting of a head was awarded to John Henry Henshall, of Manchester.

We regret to learn that Mrs. Louise Jopling is in precarious health, and is ordered by her physicians to abstain from painting, and to take perfect rest for three or four months.

The lecture at the London Institution on the 11th inst. was given to a crowded audience by Mr. Walter Severn on "Sketching from Nature," and was practically illustrated.

Mr. Scharf, Keeper and Secretary of the National Portrait Gallery, South Kensington, informs us that the gallery will be open to the public on Friday, the 26th inst. (Boxing Day).

The French Government have conferred the distinction of the Legion of Honour on Mr. Hubert Herkomer, A.R.A., one of the two English painters who gained a gold medal for art at the last Paris Exhibition.

The Art-Union of London have issued proofs of an important plate engraved in line by Mr. Lumb Stocks, R.A., "Dr. Johnson Awaiting an Audience of Lord Chesterfield," from the original picture by the late Mr. E. M. Ward, R.A. It is a fine picture, and is to be received by all subscribers to the next distribution, in addition to the chance of gaining one out of the 630 prizes, of the aggregate value of £5440.

The sale of the late Sir Charles Rushout's collection of pictures and plate, &c., was concluded yesterday week at Messrs. Phillips and Sons' Rooms, New Bond-street, the total amount realised being upwards of £16,000. A notable feature of the sale was the large number of pictures painted for the family by Angelica Kauffman, and these provoked keen competition, and in most cases realised high prices.

MUSIC.

The supplemental series of performances at Her Majesty's Theatre closed, as intimated last week, on Saturday, with "Oberon," for the benefit of Madame Pappenheim: that of Madame Marie Rose having taken place on the previous Thursday in "Mignon;" "Lohengrin" having been given on the following evening for the benefit of Mdlle. Minnie Hauk, who repeated the meritorious performance of the character of Elsa, which has heretofore been commented on. On the Wednesday afternoon before, the same part was sustained, for the first time, by Madame Hélène Crosmont, who gave a very effective representation of it. Signor Li Calsi continued to fulfil the office of conductor.

Mr. Carl Rosa's new season of performances of opera in English begins, at the same house, on Jan. 10.

Last Saturday's Crystal Palace concert—the eleventh of the series—included a fine performance of Mendelssohn's noble "Antigone" music, for which special arrangements had been made with Mr. Henry Leslie, by whose excellent choir this great work has several times been admirably rendered, as it was in the instance now referred to—directed by Mr. Leslie, who conducted the whole concert. The incidental passages for solo voices in the "Antigone" music were rendered by Messrs. H. Guy, B. Davis, R. E. Miles, and H. D'Egville. Other fine performances on Saturday were those of Mendelssohn's noble eight-part psalm "Judge me, O God," Bach's motet "The spirit also helpeth," and Morley's vivacious part-song "My bonnie lass, she smileth," all heretofore associated with Mr. Leslie's concerts. Mdlle. Marie Breidenstein made a very successful first appearance in Weber's fine concert scene "Ines de Castro," in which the lady displayed a soprano voice of bright quality, and some good declamation and brilliant execution. Balfe's serenade "Good night, beloved," nicely sung by Mr. H. Guy, and Mendelssohn's "Ruy Blas" overture completed the programme.

The first concert of the Highbury Philharmonic Society's second season was given at the Highbury Athenæum on Monday evening, when the late Mr. Henry Smart's sacred cantata, "Jacob," was performed for the first time in London. The work was commissioned for and produced at the Glasgow Festival of 1873, and was very favourably noticed at the time. Its performance on Monday last again proved that it contains much skilful writing, although, perhaps, somewhat wanting in distinctive individuality of style. Several of the choruses proved very effective, those being, generally, the strongest portions of the work. The recitative and air for Laban, and the duet for Rachel and Jacob, both in the second part, were much applauded; the singers having been Mr. R. Hilton, Miss Jessie Jones, and Mr. H. Kearton. Other effective pieces having been the recitative and air for the Angel (Mrs. Bradshaw McKay), and the quartet, by the four singers named, in the third part of the cantata. The band and chorus were efficient, and the performance was ably conducted by Dr. Bridge.

Mdlle. Janotha was again the pianist at this week's Monday Popular Concert, her solos having been three characteristic pieces—a capriccio by Brahms, a romance by Madame Schumann (composed when she was Clara Wieck), and a novelette by Robert Schumann—all which were charmingly played. A quartet by Haydn and Beethoven's Septet, both led by Madame Norman-Néruda, respectively began and closed the concert, which included vocal pieces gracefully rendered by Miss Lillian Bailey.

Last Saturday night the first Promenade Concert at the

Royal Aquarium, under the direction of Mr. O. Dubois, attracted a large audience and passed off successfully.

The annual concert in aid of the funds of the Post-Office Orphan Home took place at St. James's Hall on Saturday evening, and was very successful. The programme, which was a very full one, included the names of the following artistes, all of whom gave their services for the occasion:—Madame Marie Roze (Her Majesty's Opera), Madame Liebhart, Miss Annie Sinclair, Miss Elene Webster, Madame Cross-Lavers, Madame Frances Brooke, Miss Orridge, Madame Osborne Williams, Miss E. G. Maile, Miss de Fonblanque, Madame Mary Cummings (Her Majesty's Opera), Mr. W. H. Cummings, Mr. Percy Blandford, Mr. Wallace Wells, Mr. Henry Guy, Mr. Henry Cross, Mr. Walter Clifford, Mr. Frederick King, Miss Albert (piano), Mr. Viotti Collins (Royal Italian Opera) (violin), Mr. Oluf Svensden (flautist to the Queen), Mr. John Thomas (harpist to the Queen), Mr. G. Grossmith, jun., the British Glee Union, and (as conductors) Sir Julius Benedict, Mr. Humphrey J. Stark, Mr. Lehmyer, and Mr. W. Ganz. Notwithstanding the length of the programme, several encores were demanded and accorded. The institution in whose aid this concert was given has no building of its own. The orphans, at present ninety-seven in number, are boarded out in schools or private homes, and are maintained and educated, with periodical visitation by the committee, until they are, if boys, fourteen, if girls, fifteen, years of age. The boys for the most part enter the service of the Post Office. The charity is supported by subscriptions within the Post Office, and by public contributions.

A grand evening amateur concert, conducted by Signor Adelman, was given at the residence of Miss Pattison, 20, Clifton-gardens, Maida-hill, on Tuesday, to aid in the maintenance of forty new beds lately added to the University College Hospital.

The last of the "London Ballad Concerts" before Christmas took place on Wednesday, with a varied selection, including many favourite old English songs and ballads.

Messrs. Shedlock and Lochner closed their series of interesting "Musical Evenings," at the Lancaster Hall, Notting-hill, last week. The next series is to begin in April.

Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" ("Lobgesang") and Rossini's "Stabat Mater" constituted the programme of Mr. William Carter's concert of Thursday at the Royal Albert Hall.

The third of the excellent chamber concerts of Messrs. Carrodus and E. Howell took place at the Beethoven Rooms on Thursday evening. On the same evening, Madame Sainton-Dolby gave a concert at Steinway Hall, the programme having comprised a varied selection of vocal music performed by pupils of her Academy.

The Sacred Harmonic Society's forty-eighth Christmas performance of "The Messiah" took place yesterday (Friday) evening, the principal singers announced having been Miss Anna Williams, Madame Enriquez, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Mr. Lewis Thomas.

The Royal Albert Hall Amateur Orchestral Society opens its eighth season this (Saturday) evening with a concert in aid of the funds of the German Hospital, Dalston. The orchestral concert of the students of the Royal Academy of Music also takes place, at St. James's Hall, this (Saturday) evening.

The competition for the Santley Prize of ten guineas, for the competitor who may be judged to "accompany best and to transpose at sight," took place at the Royal Academy of Music on Monday. There were nine candidates, and the prize was awarded to Richard Harvey Löhr.

Mr. Henry Gadsby's new cantata, "The Lord of the Isles," will be performed on Monday next by the Brixton Choral Society. The composer will preside at the pianoforte, the conductor being Mr. William Lemare. The vocalists are Mr. James Sauvage, Mr. Wallace Wells, Mr. Gerard Coventry, Mr. Henry Winter; and Mrs. Bradshaw McKay and Madame Clara Suter.

THEATRES.

A new play connected with the name of Mr. James Albery must always excite a certain amount of interest. Though not all his works are equal to "The Two Roses," they invariably indicate a delicacy of conception and an elegance of composition that far remove him from the ranks of the ordinary playwright. He claims to be a dramatist of no common order, and his claims are to a great extent justified. We could have wished that he had avoided the seductions of what it has become fashionable to call "the Ring," and been content to take his lot with those whose genius, it is now acknowledged, adds unrecognised literary wealth to the country. The new drama which he has this week contributed to the Court Theatre, now under the enlightened management of Mr. Wilson Barrett, is entitled "The Old Love and the New." It is a play in five acts, written by Bronson Howard, and adapted to the English stage by Mr. James Albery. The story is obvious enough from the title, and the poetic interest which it possesses is sure to recommend it to the fashionable and intelligent audiences of the Chelsea theatre. Its representation commands the talents of an efficient company, with Miss Amy Roselle as the leading attraction. The part of the heroine is exceedingly well adapted to this lady's especial aptitude, and will add to her laurels. Other characters are ably supported by Mr. Charles Coghlan, Mr. David Fisher, Mr. Edmund Leathes, Mr. G. Anson, Mr. Winfred Emery, and several ladies of talent. This is decidedly a strong company; they are also materially assisted by some excellent scenery painted by Messrs. George Gordon and Harford, together with Walter Hannand Bruce Smith, and some incidental music by Mr. Robert Stoffel. In all respects, Mr. Wilson Barrett commands esteem by the careful manner in which the new drama has been prepared for the stage. The battle, however, is not yet decided. An ambitious originality in the mode of treating the theme troubled and disturbed not a few; others regarded it as mere caprice. But things of this kind find their level; and frequently public opinion, after a fair trial, decides for the author. The work will be variously criticised, and will lead to much discussion. The play, as originally written by Mr. B. Howard, has already been acted in America, but it has been much improved by Mr. Albery. He has imparted to it a pathos, which secures the sympathy of an intelligent audience.

The Polly was reopened on Saturday, when Mr. H. J. Byron generously appeared as the substitute for Mr. J. L. Toole, whose illness and sorrow prevent him from at present appearing before the public. The play performed was "Not Such a Fool as He Looks," Mr. Byron personating with his usual power Sir Simon Simple. The impersonation, as our readers know, is of the most diverting sort—one of those quiet delineations in which Mr. Byron excels. Mr. E. W. Gordon as Mr. Mould was good, Mr. H. Westland, as Frederick Grantley amusing, and Mr. John Billington as Mr. Daniel Murgatroyd appropriately forcible. Miss Roland Phillips and Miss Eliza Johnstone deserve commendation as Felicia Craven and Mrs. Morton. The talent of such performers should be

found sufficiently attractive until Mr. Toole himself shall be enabled to return to the boards.

The Opéra Comique seeks, by an ingenious arrangement, to give an extended life to "H.M.S. Pinafore," by organising a performance of the opera by children. The music has been revised to suit the voices of the young performers, who personate the characters with a neatness and intelligence that surprises as well as pleases. The entertainment is altogether unique, and must become exceedingly popular. We do not mention the names of the individual artistes, out of a regard for their future, which, in such cases, we fear, may be compromised by a too early trial. In itself it is a marvel, and is adapted to give a peculiar sensation of delight to adult audiences, at an exhibition which is full of contrasts and suggestions that provoke more reflection than can be expressed in a limited space.

Mr. Hollingshead has issued the following account of his stewardship of the Gaiety Theatre:—"To the public. To-day, Dec. 20, is the eleventh anniversary of the opening of the Gaiety Theatre. During these eleven years the house has only been closed sixty nights, and has been opened for 434 day performances; in other words, it has been kept open by me for twelve years and eleven weeks in the space of eleven years. Though our present programme would have carried us successfully through Christmas, it will be temporarily withdrawn after Christmas Eve in favour of one of those special holiday entertainments which I have been accustomed to produce for several years past. 'Gulliver,' however, will only be played for a limited number of nights, and after it is withdrawn the burlesque of 'Robbing Roy' will resume its run. At Easter the Hanlon Lees will appear in their eccentric pantomimic farce, 'The Voyage en Suisse,' which has been a great and peculiar success in Paris, and has been done into English by Mr. Reece. 'The French Plays,' as announced, will begin on May 24. The performances will be an annual feature in the Gaiety programme, and every care will be taken to render each foreign season worthy of its predecessor."

Messrs. Maskelyne and Cook have introduced a new Christmas programme to the public at the Egyptian Hall. In addition to the wonderful performances of Mr. Maskeleyno's androids, it includes a talking automaton cockatoo, an automaton creeping and coiling serpent, and the flight of Mr. Maskelyne off the fully lighted stage, with no visible means of support.

Vice-Chancellor Malins had before him yesterday week a friendly suit, "Buckstone v. Fraser," brought on behalf of the family of the late Mr. J. B. Buckstone, the actor. Sir William Fraser, trustee of a fund of about £1200 raised during the lifetime of the deceased, asked the Court to sanction a scheme for the investment of the balance, in order to pay the widow and her family an annuity of £80 as long as the money lasted. His Lordship acceded to the application.

A NEW CHRISTMAS PASTIME:

THE GAME OF THE ROAD.

Acrostics were known to have been written in Greece and Rome in days before the Christian era; but they obtained great favour in France in the sixteenth century, and were made highly popular in England in Queen Elizabeth's reign, chiefly through the ingenious verses of the courtly poet Sir John Davies. Though Dryden and Addison sneered at them as antiquated modes of wit which had long been exploded from the commonwealth of letters, yet they continued to hold their own as harmless methods for procuring innocent amusement united to no little dexterity of invention. The single acrostics, however, have long since given place to the double acrostics—those enigmas or charades, or "novel and ingenious riddles," as I termed them, when I had the pleasure of first introducing them to the public in the pages of the *Illustrated London News* Aug. 30, 1856. They at once hit the public fancy; and answers to the five Double Acrostic Charades that I wrote in that number of this Journal, and in the number for Sept. 13, poured in from correspondents in each quarter of the globe. Since then Double Acrostics have been published in numberless newspapers and periodicals, and, after twenty-three years of public service, still maintain the popularity that they immediately obtained on their first appearance in this Journal.

A similar success will not, probably, await my suggestion for a new Pastime; but, without any apology, I add it to the multiplicity of ways and means that now exist for healthily occupying the intellects and memories of young and old of both sexes, who have met together to spend a few hours in varied games and amusements, whether at Christmas or any other season. I start the idea from the old story of two bagmen—an intelligent and hard-working class, who, perhaps, were better acquainted than the generality of people with the scenery of Great Britain. The story goes, that these two bagmen laid a wager that one of them would name the prettiest road in all England. But the wager had to be drawn, for the one traveller named the road from Warwick to Leamington, while the other traveller named the road from Leamington to Warwick. That was many years ago, before the railway age, and when there were fewer houses between the two towns than there are at the present time. But the anecdote suggests the new game that may be added to the novelties of the Christmas season—the Game of the Road.

Let each person in the company be asked to name, either by word of mouth or in writing, some road with which they are acquainted, in whatever county, country, or quarter of the globe it may happen to be. Thus, for example, and borrowing from the bagmen—"Name and describe the prettiest road that you know." And so with other roads, such as the ugliest road, the loneliest road, the hilliest road, the straightest road, the broadest road, the narrowest road, the roughest road, the weariest road, the dreariest road, the busiest road, the dustiest road, the noisiest road, the quietest road, the muddiest road, the most circuitous road, the steepest road, the most romantic road, the most ancient road, the road by the prettiest lake, the road by the loveliest river, the road by celebrated castles, the road by the greatest number of mansions, or abbeys, or deer-parks, or historic spots, or battle-fields, &c.

In the replies to such questions as these, much information could be interchanged, and travellers would be able to give their personal experiences of foreign lands. The game would afford instruction, as well as amusement, especially to the young; would not require any preparation, and would only tax the powers of memory in an agreeable way. An hour might be pleasantly spent in this pastime, which is susceptible of many variations—in short, of Roads' variations; and he who was adjudged to have given the best answers, might be dubbed, for that evening, the Colossus of Rhodes. CUTBERT BENZ.

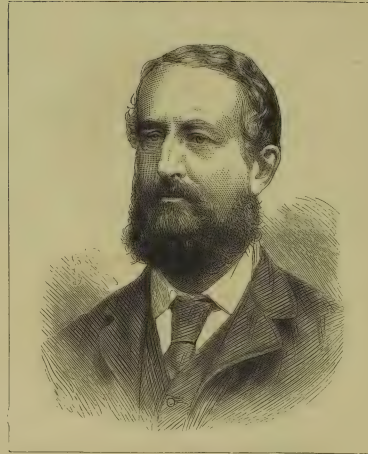
The Corporation of Rochester last Saturday sealed a petition to Parliament in favour of the undertakings proposed to be carried out by the Corporation, for which a bill has been introduced. These include the construction of spacious docks in the Medway, towards which the Corporation will contribute; the purchase and extension of the waterworks, the embankment of the Medway, and other important undertakings.

THE SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

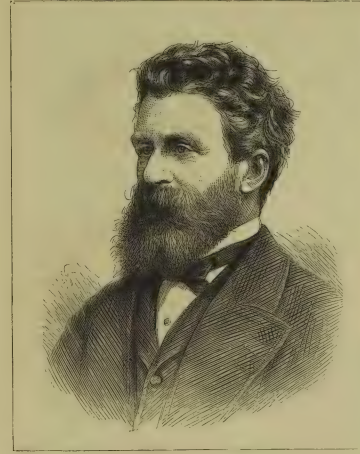
SEE PAGE 583.



LORD AUGUSTUS LOFTUS,
GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES.



THE EARL OF BELMORE,
PRESIDENT OF THE LONDON COMMISSION FOR THE EXHIBITION.



SIR D. COOPER, BART., K.C.M.G.,
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE LONDON COMMISSION.



MR. P. A. JENNINGS, C.M.G.,
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER FOR THE EXHIBITION.



Government House.

Exhibition Palace.

Farm Cove.

North Head.

Garden Island.

Machinery Hall.
Live Stock Annexes.

Shark and Clark Islands.

THE PALACE, FROM THE STEEPLE OF ST. JAMES'S CHURCH.

OBITUARY.

LADY WOOD.

Emma Caroline, Lady Wood, died at an advanced age, on the 15th inst., at Belhus, her son-in-law's seat in Essex. Her Ladyship was youngest daughter of Sampson Mitchell, Esq., R.N., of Croft West, Cornwall, Admiral in the Portuguese Navy, and was married Feb. 16, 1820, to the Rev. Sir John Page Wood, second Baronet, eldest son of Sir Matthew Wood, Bart., M.P., twice Lord Mayor of London. Of the marriage there was a numerous issue: the eldest son was the late Sir Francis Wood, Bart., and the fifth is the gallant Sir Evelyn Wood, V.C., K.C.B. Of the daughters, the fourth, Emma, married, 1853, Sir Thomas Barrett Lennard, Bart., of Belhus. Lady Wood was left a widow Feb. 21, 1866. Her husband's only surviving brother is William Page, Lord Hatherley. Lady Wood, the authoress of several popular novels, was a woman of rare accomplishment, good sense, and warmth of feeling. Her life was spared to admit of her participation in the universal gratification the well-earned honours of her son have afforded.

MR. ATKINS DAVIS.

John Nicholas Crofts Atkins Davis, Esq., Deputy Inspector-General of Army Hospitals, died recently at his residence in Dublin. This much-lamented gentleman, long associated with the Royal Artillery, and well known for the interest he took in genealogical pursuits, was eldest son of the late James Thomas Davis, Esq., Royal Artillery, Acting Deputy-Inspector of Ordnance Hospitals in the Peninsular War, by Mary, his wife, daughter of John Atkins, Esq., of Fountainville, in the county of Cork. Mr. Atkins Davis's youngest brother, the late Thomas Davis, was the brilliant poet and eloquent orator of the Young Ireland Party.

We have also to record the deaths of—

Thomas Waters, Esq., Major Royal Marine Light Infantry, on the 6th inst., at Hook, Surrey, in his ninety-ninth year.

The Rev. George Robert Kensit, for nearly fifty years Vicar of Betchworth, Surrey, in his seventy-fifth year.

Colonel Arthur Hill Millett, late Bengal Staff Corps, formerly Inspector-General of Police H.A.D. India, on the 8th inst., aged forty-eight.

Leadbetter Uppley, Esq., of Wootton, Lincolnshire, J.P. and D.L., late Major R.N. Lincoln Militia, on the 5th inst., in his eighty-first year.

William Mitchell-Innes, Esq., late Captain 13th Hussars, eldest son of Alexander Mitchell-Innes, Esq., of Ayton Castle, in the county of Berwick, by Charlotte Gordon, his first wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Dick-Lauder, Bart., on the 7th inst.

Louisa Paulina, Lady Boughey, wife of Sir Thomas Fletcher Fenton Boughey, Bart., and youngest daughter of Thomas Giffard, Esq., of Chillington, in the county of Stafford, by Lady Charlotte Courtenay, his wife, sister of William, tenth Earl of Devon, on the 10th inst., at Aqualate, near Newport.

Eleanor Irving Matheson, wife of Alexander Matheson, Esq., M.P., of Ardross and Lochalsh, N.B., on the 6th inst., at Ardross Castle. She was great-granddaughter of John, second Earl of Egmont, and sixth daughter of Spencer Perceval, Esq., of Elm Grove, Ealing, eldest son of the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval, the Prime Minister. Mrs. Matheson was married in 1860, and leaves a large family.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

Mrs. Wigram, the wife of Major Wigram, distributed the prizes to the 26th Middlesex (Customs and Docks), on the 11th inst., in the large hall at Cannon-street Hotel. Lieutenant-Colonel Kennard, M.P., the commanding officer, in his opening address, stated that the enrolled strength of the regiment had risen during the past year from 787 to 809; the efficient, in the same time, increasing from 770 to 796.

Yesterday week the Duchess of Connaught presented, in St. James's Hall, the prizes won by members of the London Irish during the past year. The Duke of Connaught, who is the Honorary Colonel of the regiment, bore testimony to their soldierly bearing at Aldershot.

Colonel Stanley, Secretary for War, delivered the prizes yesterday week to the members of the Liverpool Rifle Brigade. He said that the chief objection to arming the volunteers with Martini-Henry rifle was that of expense. As to the idea of a volunteer legion for active service, he would not say that circumstances might not render such a contingent acceptable; but at present volunteers ought to confine themselves within the sphere at first marked out for them.

In the Guildhall last Saturday the Lady Mayoress presented the prizes won during the past year by the 2nd London; and Colonel Burnaby made some remarks on the history of the City of London Volunteers.

Colonel Waller, R.A., and Colonel Fremantle presented the prizes to the 3rd Middlesex Artillery and the 37th Middlesex respectively. The question of the want of proper drilling places for the various metropolitan corps was mentioned.

On Tuesday evening the annual distribution of the prizes won during the past season in great gun and carbine practice by the 3rd Essex Volunteer Artillery Brigade was held in the Townhall, Stratford, in the presence of a large company. Lieutenant-Colonel Hughes, the commanding officer, in opening the proceedings, gave some particulars of the condition of the brigade, which showed a considerable improvement over that of the preceding year.

Colonel A. Lyon-Fremantle will present the prizes to the West London (4th Middlesex), at St. George's Hall, this (Saturday) evening.

Last week there was not a single head of live cattle, sheep, or pigs landed at Liverpool from the United States and Canada, a circumstance which has not occurred for many months past. The quantity of fresh beef brought during the same period was, however, large; and the arrivals of mutton, though not up to the previous week, were still above the average of recent weeks; making a total of 6857 quarters of beef, 1444 carcasses of mutton, and 103 dead pigs.

The Home Secretary has nominated to the Recordership of Portsmouth (vacant by the death of Mr. Serjeant Cox) Mr. George Deedes Warry, the leader of the Hampshire Circuit.—Mr. Prideaux, Q.C., Recorder of Exeter, and leader of the Western Circuit, has been appointed Recorder of Bristol, in the place of Mr. Kingdon, Q.C., deceased; and Mr. Collins, Q.C., Recorder of Poole, has been appointed Recorder of Exeter.—Mr. Prior Goldney, of the Western Circuit, has been appointed Recorder of Poole, in succession to Mr. Collins; and Mr. G. F. Speke, of the Western Circuit, has been appointed Recorder of Helston, in his place. Mr. Speke was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1849.—Mr. Haden Corser, of the Oxford Circuit, has been appointed deputy stipendiary magistrate of the Wolverhampton district, as a temporary measure, owing to the indisposition of Mr. Boughey.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

EAST MARDEN.—Look at No. 1868 again; there is a reply to 1. B to B 3rd in 1. P to Q 7th W F (Harrigate).—The required number has been forwarded.
R C R.—The solutions are withheld for three weeks that those received from abroad may be acknowledged with the others, thus avoiding too many lists of names.
J C W (Aldgate).—Your question was answered a few weeks ago.
H L (Brighton).—Unless there is a stipulated time limit, your adversary is legally justified in occupying any number of hours upon the consideration of his moves.
M O H (Doblin).—White, having touched his adversary's Pawn, as well as his own Kt, he is bound to capture it. You will find in such technical points settled for you in Staunton's *Puzzle*, published by Bohn, Covent-garden.
R T (Brompton).—The chess magazines were noticed in our last number, and you will there find the information for which you ask.

CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1866 received from Bridgewater, J R Rapp (Munich), Hereward, Underwood, Black Watch, J M F (Dublin), and C F Ansell (Malaga).

CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1867 received from E L G, A T Ridding, C H Foster, Ryecroft, G J Stephen, J H G (Torquay), O Wolter, Wanstead, J Tucker, G T B Kyngdon, M H Moorhouse, Alpha, J B Dow, W A Grant, Norman Rumbelow, W P Welch, Duke, W de P Crouxaz, Eustochus, J W W, Pops, C F Jones, E P Vulliamy, E H H V, Lulu, Cant, J R Rapp (Munich), Hereward, W Halliday, G L O, Bridgewater, Fred West, W D Jones, G C Baxter, Orazio, F A Bright, E Loudon, R H Brooks, R Bohm, Jun., James Dobson, Tobias, W Leeson, L G Batson, Vleurgt (Brussels), W J Eggleston, and Carlos (Lille).

CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1868 received from H B, Thorpe Reading-Room, J Rademacher, W S Leest, J R Rapp (Munich), R F N Banks, G C Baxter, Orazio, Leslie Lachlan, Lily and Conrade, Pops, R H Brooks, W Leeson, An Old Hand, R Jenson, R Ingersoll, G L Mayne, R H Brewster, G Fosbrooke, Kitten, R Gray, T Greenbank, Ben Novis, B W Kell, N Cator, Lorna, H Barrett, E Eibury, M O Halloran, L B E, H Langford, S Farrant, L Sharrowood, Little Woman, Ben Bolt, D Templeton, Oscar, B L Dyke, O Darragh, P R Jeffrey, C Elmore, Julia Short, Shadforth, Cant, Problematicus, E F, E P Vulliamy, Lulu, Eustochus, Norman Rumbelow, Alpha, M H Moorhouse, and Clarence H B.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 1867.

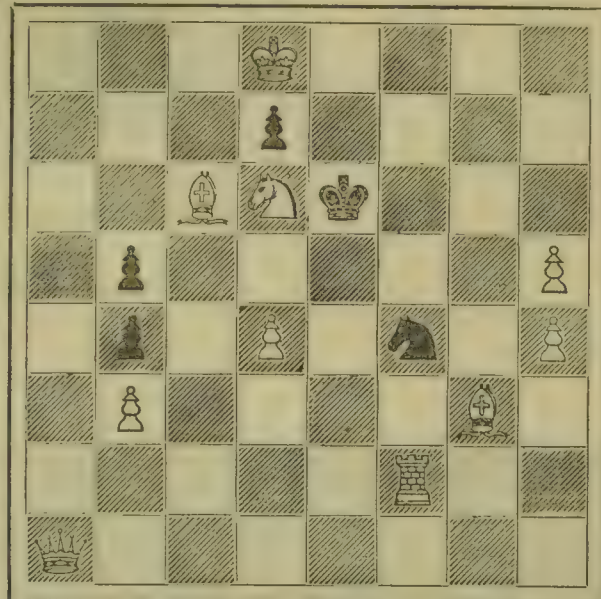
WHITE. BLACK.
1. Q to Kt 3rd. Any move
2. Mates accordingly.

NOTE.—This problem was corrected after publication by the author placing a Black Pawn on Kt 4th. The position has evoked a great deal of interest among our correspondents, and we have consequently been overwhelmed with suggestions for its correction. The simplest and most effective of these is that received from East Marden: substituting a Black Pawn for the Black Knight on Q Kt 7th.

PROBLEM No. 1870.

By J. PAUL TAYLOR.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in two moves.

One of ten Games played *sans voir* simultaneously by Mr. BLACKBURNE during his recent visit to the Potteries. His adversary in this Game is Mr. ASKEW, of Burslem. (Allgaier Gambit.)

WHITE (Mr. B.)	BLACK (Mr. A.)	WHITE (Mr. B.)	BLACK (Mr. A.)
1. P to K 4th	P to K 4th	16. Castles (K R)	R to B 2nd
2. P to K 4th	P takes P	17. P to K 5th	P to Q Kt 5th
3. Kt to K B 3rd	P to K Kt 4th	18. R takes R	K takes R
4. P to K R 4th	P to Kt 5th	19. R to K B sq (ch)	K to Kt 2nd
5. Kt to K 5th	B to Kt 2nd	20. Kt to K 4th	Kt to R 3rd
6. P to Q 4th	Q to K 2nd		

The correct continuation is 6. Kt to K B 3rd, followed by 7. P to Q 4th, should White play the K B to B 4th. The move in the text is ill-timed, and subjects Black to an assault that prevents him developing his forces on the Queen's side.

7. Kt to Q B 3rd P to Q B 3rd
Occupying the square required for the Q Kt.

8. B takes P B takes Kt
9. P takes B
Much better than 9. B takes B. The Pawn is now effectively placed, preventing the advance of the adverse Q P.

10. B to B 4th	P to K R 4th
11. B to Q 4th	P to K B 3rd
12. B takes Kt	P to Q Kt 4th
13. B takes P	P takes P
14. B to Q 6th	B takes B
15. Q takes Q	Q to Kt 2nd
	R takes Q

Two chess clubs in New York are just now furnishing the chess world with another illustration of the truism that history repeats itself. In the year 1851 there were two chess clubs in London, amid the jarring sounds of whose recrimination the project of the first international chess tournament seemed likely to be relegated to the limbo of failures; and we now find the New York and Manhattan Chess Clubs engaged in a similar feud. It appears that the New York Chess Club will have nothing to do with the tournament fixed for next January unless the meetings are held within its precincts, and the members of the Manhattan, while solemnly affirming that, before their attention was thus directed to the place of meeting, they had formed no pretensions to such special honour for themselves, they are now convinced it should not be conferred upon the claimants. There is not much to choose between the two associations as regards the locality of their place of meeting. The New York Club meets in a café at the city end of Second-avenue; the Manhattan, at another café in the Bowery. The squabble strikes us as one between two rival "Restaurateurs," and the straight road out of it is to have nothing to do with either.

We give another instalment of "Delta's" reminiscences:—"In my last note I omitted to mention that I had a pleasant tête-à-tête, at Rics, in March, 1849, with the veteran player Alexandre, and had one stubbornly-contested game with him. He must have been then nearly eighty years of age. I was anxious to play with Buckle, but he had always some other opponent. I watched, however, with much intent more than once his play at the Divan. He appeared to me to be the best English player there, and second only in the chess arena to Staunton. After my friendly rencontre with Harwitz at Brighton, he paid me a short visit at my home when he came down to Scotland. Our play was, upon the whole, quite equal. He won the odd game at my house; and I, *en revanche*, won the odd game of him some years after at London. The end-position of this last game, played in 1860, was published in the *Schachzeitung* of that year. It is the only souvenir which I have of the games that we played at Brighton, in London, and at my Scottish home. In the spring of 1852 Löwenthal paid me two visits, and we played together. About thirty games, mostly Gambits, of which more than the half were drawn and the won games were equal. I found, from my comparative want of first-rate practice at chess, that it was very hard work to keep my own with two so able and accomplished players as Harwitz and Löwenthal. I recorded at the time, and sent on to Staunton, at least the half of the games that I played with Löwenthal, as my English friend had expressed a desire to have some samples of our play, that he might publish them in the *Chessplayers' Chronicle*. Löwenthal's opinion of our play was, that he knew the openings better than I did, and the Pawn endings fully as well; but that I had the better of him in the grand 'combinations,' as he called it, in the thick of the fight! I believe that his view was the correct one, for, if I was not flooded in the opening of the game, I found that it was comparatively plain sailing afterwards. Löwenthal and Harwitz were both most agreeable men to play with, and never lost their temper at chess. Many chessplayers are like the poets, an 'irritable genius!'"

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

The will (dated Feb. 22, 1879) of Mr. Edward Backhouse, late of Ashburne, Bishopwearmouth, Durham, banker, who died on May 22 last at Hastings, was proved on the 8th ult. at the Durham district registry by Alfred Backhouse, the brother, and Edward Backhouse Mounsey and James Edward Backhouse, the nephews, the executors, the personal estate, including leaseholds, being sworn under £180,000. The testator devises the Duke's House estate and other properties to his wife, Mrs. Katharine Backhouse, for life, and at her decease to the children of his deceased brother, Thomas James Backhouse, subject to the payment of £8000 to the children of his deceased sister, Mrs. Lucy Backhouse Mounsey; he also leaves to his wife his mansion at Ashdowne for life, certain household effects, furniture, books, goods and chattels, and a pecuniary legacy of £15,000; to his executors £500 each; to his brothers-in-law, John and Edward Mounsey, annuities of £150 each for their respective lives; to his said nephew, Edward Backhouse Mounsey, his mansion-house at Seaton Carew; and other bequests. He devises and bequeaths all his shares in collieries and the residue of his real and personal estate upon trust to pay his wife £10,000 per annum for life if she shall so long remain his widow, and if she shall marry again to pay her £5000 per annum for life; and as to the ultimate residue, one third is to go to his brother Alfred, one third equally between the children of his said deceased brother, and the other third equally between the children of his said deceased sister. In the event of the testator having any children after the execution of his will, which, we believe, was not the case, most of the foregoing bequests are revoked.

The will (dated July 30, 1878) with a codicil (dated Nov. 23 following) of Mr. Edward Greaves, late of Avoinside, in the parish of Barford, Warwickshire, who died on July 6 last, has been proved at the Birmingham district registry by Edward Seymour Greaves, the nephew, and Brabazon Campbell, the acting executors, the personal estate in the United Kingdom being sworn under £90,000. The testator bequeaths £100 each to the Church Missionary Society, the Warneford Hospital, Leamington; the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham; the Church Association, the British and Foreign Bible Society, and the Christian Knowledge Society; £50 to the Warwickshire Natural History Society; to his godson, Edward Thomas Ward, £12,000 and certain parts of his property at Barford; upon trust for his stepdaughter, Mrs. Harriette Anne Smith, £6600, and other legacies. The remainder of his property at Barford, the residue of his personal estate in England, and all his heritable and movable property in Scotland, the testator leaves to his said nephew, Edward Seymour Greaves; and the residue of his real estate in England to his nephew Richard Methuen Greaves. The deceased was for many years member of Parliament for Warwick.

The will (dated Feb. 4, 1869) of Mr. Thomas Hollings, late of Cliff Villa, Clifton, near York, who died on Oct. 19 last, was proved on the 4th inst. by John Hollings, the brother, the sole executor, the personal estate being sworn under £70,000. The testator devises his mansion-house and lands at Copt Hewick, in the parish of Ripon, to his nephew, Herbert John Butler Hollings; and bequeaths £4000 each to the three daughters of his said brother John; an annuity of £150 to his cousin, Martha Jane Fox; a legacy of £300 and an annuity of £10 to his servant, John King; £1000 each to his cousins, George Thornton and Henry Thornton; 50 guineas for a ring to his friend, Richard Ridehalgh; one year's wages to each of the regular servants in his house except John King; and the residue of his real and personal estate to his said brother.

The will (dated Dec. 23, 1868) with a codicil (dated Sept. 23, 1876) of Mrs. Frances Charlotte Fleming, formerly of No. 61A, Portadown-gardens, but late of No. 31, Queen's-gate, Kensington, who died on the 6th ult., was proved on the 2nd inst. by Charles Henry Fleming, the son, the acting executor, the personal estate being sworn under £40,000. The testatrix, after making specific bequests to several of her children, leaves the residue of her property between her children, William, Charles Henry, Catherine, Frances Margaret, Mary, Maria Elizabeth, Alice, and Gertrude.

The will (dated April 29, 1879) of Mr. William Farmer, late of No. 67, Westminster Bridge-road, sculptor, who died on the 6th ult., was proved on the 10th inst. by Charles Edward Stowell, the Very Rev. Joseph Moore, and Henry Wheeler Barnes, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £20,000.

The will (dated March 25, 1873) with a codicil (dated April 6, 1878) of Mr. William Carter, late of Effingham Cottage, Cophthorn, Surrey, who died on Oct. 8 last, was proved on the 3rd inst. by William Carter, and Robert Joseph Carter, and William Henry Carter, the sons, the surviving executors, the personal estate being sworn under £25,000.

The will (dated July 4, 1879) of Mr. Leonard A. Montefiore, late of 18, Portman-square, who died on Sept. 6 last, has been proved by his brother Claude Montefiore and James Rendel, his executors, the personal estate being sworn under £10,000. Among numerous other legacies the testator bequeaths £1000 to the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond-street; the sum of £100 each to the Jews' Infant School, Commercial-street, Whitechapel; the Jews' Westminster Free School, Greek-street; the Hospital for Incurable Children, Cheyne-walk, Chelsea; and the Metropolitan Association for befriending Young Servants; and the sum of £50 each to the Women's Provident and Protective League, the Charity Organisation Society, and the Society for the Suppression of Vice.

The will (dated Jan. 18, 1877) of Miss Elizabeth Courage, late of Denmark-hill, who died on Oct. 22 last, was proved on the 4th inst. by Miss Harriett Living, the niece, the personal estate being sworn under £10,000. The testatrix bequeaths to her servant Emma Tarrant, £500; to her servant Mary Tarrant, £30; and the residue to her said niece.

The will (dated May 6, 1876) of Sir George Benvenuto Buckley Mathew, C.B., K.C.M.G., formerly her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Emperor of Brazil, but late of Clydesdale Villa, Leamington, who died on Oct. 22 last, at No. 16, Suffolk-street, Pall-mall East, was proved on the 29th ult. by Arthur Earle and Charles Guy Pym, the acting executors, the personal estate being sworn under £3000.

A memorial to the late Prince Imperial, in the form of a cross, is to be placed on Chiselmurston-common.

Dr. Hunter, Director-General of Statistics to the Government of India, gave an address on "Indian Finance" at Birmingham yesterday week. He advocated a treaty of commerce between England and India, as the only solution of the import duty difficulty.

The Archbishop of York on the 11th inst. opened at Sheffield the Wostenholme Memorial Hall, a building which has been erected at a cost of £11,000 by a lady of Sheffield in memory of her husband, who was a leading cutlery manufacturer. It is a gift to the town, and consists of a café, mission-room, and lecture-hall, with ample provision for rational recreation for working men.

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DEPRESSION OF TRADE.—OETZMANN and CO. have just secured a purchase of 500 Handsome AXMINSTER HEARTH RUGS, size, 6 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft. 6 in., newest and best designs, to suit various patterns in Carpets. These Rugs are of exceptionally good value, and will be sold at 8s. 11d. each; usual price, 15s. 6d. An early visit of inspection solicited; or, by describing Carpet required to be matched, suitable pattern will be sent same day on receipt of order per post. The price being below the manufacturers' cost of production. O. and Co. are desirous their customers should receive the benefit; and, to prevent being purchased by the Trade, not more than two Rugs will be sold to one person. OETZMANN and CO.

LINOLEUM.—OETZMANN and CO. LINOLEUM.—Warm, soft, carpet-like in appearance, and very durable. Only the best make sold. See trade mark, STAINES' LINOLEUM, on back of the cloth. All the New PRIZE DESIGNS are now in Stock. A visit of inspection solicited. Prices below those usually charged for this favourite floor covering. Patterns sent into the country on application. The Trade supplied.—OETZMANN and CO.

ANGLO-TURKEY CARPETS (Regd.) OETZMANN and CO.—These superior Carpets, of which Messrs. OETZMANN and CO. have extensive stocks, are of first-class British manufacture, have all the style and appearance of real Turkey Carpets, at little more than the price of good Brussels, and are very durable. Price-List post-free on application. For the convenience of those residing at a distance, a large piece, showing the border and centre of Carpet, sent on receipt of 5s., which will be deducted from price of Carpet or refunded upon return of pattern; or by sending 15s., three pieces—viz., Anglo-Turkey, Anglo-Perian, and Anglo-Indian—will be sent on the same terms. Hearth Rugs to match, 6 ft. long by 2 ft. 6 in. wide, £1 5s. 6d. A large stock of real Turkey Carpets at reduced prices.—OETZMANN and CO.

SIDEBOARDS.—OETZMANN and CO'S Large and Handsome Mahogany or Oak Sideboards, with high plate-glass back, price 15 guineas; massive Spanish Mahogany or Oak ditto, very handsome, 25 guineas; noble Spanish Mahogany or Oak ditto, handsomely carved, and lofty plate-glass back, made and finished in the best possible manner, price 35 guineas. A variety of Early English and other designs in rich Spanish Mahogany or finest carved Oak, from 25 to 5

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

No. 2117.—VOL. LXXV.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1879.

WITH SUPPLEMENT SIXPENCE.
By Post, 6d.



SOUP KITCHEN FOR POOR JEWS AT SPITALFIELDS.—SEE PAGE 591.

BIRTHS.

On the 16th inst., at 94, Petherton-road, Highbury New Park, N., the wife of James Wainhouse Simpson, formerly of the Oriental Bank, Galle, Ceylon, of a daughter (Eleanor Lilian).

On the 13th ult., at Aurungabad, Deccan, E.I., the wife of S. G. F. Selfe Esq., R.A., of a daughter,

On the 12th inst., at Arnheim, Holland, the Baroness Huyssen van Kattendyke, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 20th inst., at St. James's, Sussex-gardens, by the Rev. the Hon. W. Fremantle, brother-in-law of the bride, assisted by the Rev. S. Oldham, Commander Francis Clifford de Laussade, R.N., youngest son of the late Marquis de Laussade, to Emily Florence, Lady Eardley, only child of the late Sumner Magee, Esq., of New Orleans, and 4, Lancaster-street, Hyde Park.

On the 18th inst., at Westbury, Wilts, Major-General J. W. A. Kennedy, to Marion, daughter of the late Mr. Robert Wetten, of Kew.

DEATHS.

On the 16th inst., at his residence, No. 6, Hyde Park-terrace, W., General Richard Cornwallis Moore, C.B., Royal Artillery, aged 72.

On the 19th inst., at Boldre, Lymington, Hants, the Rev. Augustus James Knapp, M.A., J.P., in the 75th year of his age.

On the 16th inst., at Port William, Lismore, in the county of Waterford, of rheumatism of the heart, Colonel Edward Richard King, son of the late Lieutenant-General the Hon. Sir Henry King, K.C.B.

On the 18th inst., at Fyvie Castle, Aberdeenshire, William Cosmo Gordon, Esq., of Fyvie and Maryculter, eldest son of the late Charles Gordon, Esq., of Fyvie and Maryculter, and grandson of the Hon. Alexander Gordon, Lord Rockville, and Anne, Countess of Dumfries and Stair, aged 69.

On the 16th inst., at Mentone, James Hussey, Esq., of The Close, Salisbury, J.P. for the county of Wilts, and Chairman of the Court of Quarter Sessions at Salisbury.

* * The charge for the insertion of Births, Marriages, or Deaths is Five Shillings for each announcement.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 3.

SUNDAY, DEC. 28.

First Sunday after Christmas.
Holy Innocents. Morning Lessons: Isaiah xxxv. or Jer. xxxi. 1-18; Rev. xvi. Evening Lessons: Isaiah xxxviii. or xl. or Baruch iv. 21-31; Rev. xviii.
Full Moon, 4.16 p.m.; partial eclipse of the Moon, partly visible at Greenwich, 3.48 to 5.14 p.m.
St. Paul's Cathedral, 10.30 a.m., Rev. J. G. Cromwell; 3.15 p.m., Rev. Canon Liddon; 7 p.m., Rev. A. Gurney, Vicar of St. Barnabas, Fimlico.

MONDAY, DEC. 29.

Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone b. 1809. London Institution, 5 p.m. (Mr. W. A. Ralston, a Story-telling).

TUESDAY, DEC. 30.

Accession of Alfonso XII., King of Spain, 1874. Royal Institution, 3 p.m. (Professor Tyndall on Water and Air).

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31.

Savoy, Chapel Royal, midnight service (with "Te Deum"), Rev. H. White, the Chaplain.
Kendal and North-Western Counties poultry and Dog Show (three days).

THURSDAY, JAN. 1, 1880.

Circumcision.
Union of Great Britain and Ireland, 1801.
Bank Holiday in Scotland.
Royal Institution, 3 p.m. (Professor Tyndall on Water and Air).
Manchester Steeplechase.

FRIDAY, JAN. 2.

Accession of William I. as King of Prussia, 1861.
Society of Arts (Juvenile Lecture), 7 p.m. (Mr. W. H. Preece on Recent Wonders of Sound).
Geologists' Association, 8 p.m.
Architectural Association, 7.30 p.m. (Mr. R. L. Cox on Architectural Illustrations and their Classification).

SATURDAY, JAN. 3.

Royal Institution, 3 p.m. (Professor Tyndall on Water and Air).

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 3.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
1 40	2 19	2 35	2 53	3 10	3 28	3 45

LYCEUM THEATRE.—MERCHANT OF VENICE, EVERY EVENING at Eight o'clock. Shylock, Mr. Irving; Portia, Miss Ellen Terry. MORNING PERFORMANCES EVERY SATURDAY till further notice. Seats booked Six Weeks in advance.

THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT-GARDEN.—Messrs. A. and S. GATTI beg to announce that their Second Grand Christmas Pantomime, entitled SINBAD THE SAILOR, will be produced Every Evening. Morning Performances, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, commencing Saturday Morning, JLC. 2., at Two. Box-Office open daily from Ten to Five. No booking fees.

SANGERS' GRAND NATIONAL AMPHITHEATRE will REOPEN on BOXING DAY, and give TWO PERFORMANCES, at Two and seven, which will be repeated every Morning and Evening. The Grand Christmas Comic Double Pantomime, entitled ALADDIN AND THE WONDERFUL LAMP, of which King Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves, will embrace original and incidents of a most marvellous character, and will be followed by a grand and magnificent production that has been submitted to public criticism. The scenery is by the most eminent Artist, Messrs. Dimes and Cane. The powerful Company will comprise the following:—Medames Grace Arnytage, Josephine St. Ange, Kate Allwood, Maggie Duggan, Alice Mowbray, Edith Clinton, Eugenie Verne, Nora Wright, Lottie Clegg, H. Kearney, Messrs. Max Holman, C. T. Webster, R. A. Langham, E. N. Hallows, T. C. Valentine, John Stoker, A. Hyland, W. Reeves, C. Sidney, Vernon, James Crockett, A. Lauraine, The Brothers Alvaro, &c. Premiere Danseuses, Mollies, Elsie Hudson and Sophie Grenfell; and the Great Little Sandy as Clown. Scenes in the Pantomime:—No. 1. The Caves of the Genii; No. 2. Exterior of Willow Twankey's Home; No. 3. The Forest; No. 4. A Back Street in the City; No. 5. The Illuminated Grove of the Enchanted Palace; No. 6. Ante-Room in the Palace. Grand Transformation scene entitled "The Genii's Glistering Arcade of Light." The whole produced under the personal superintendence of Messrs. John and George Sanger. The performance will commence with the Royal Continental and English Circus Company, clever riders, astounding Gymnasts &c., also the marvellous troupe of performers in the Elephant. Look at the names of the Great Company, and Two Pantomimes at each representation. Private Boxes 3s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.; Dress Circle, 4s.; Balcony Stalls, 2s.; Orchestra Stalls, 2s. 6d.; Boxes and Pit Stalls, 2s.; Amphitheatre, 1s. 6d.; the Great Pit, 1s.; Gallery, 6d. Children under Twelve half price to Dress Circle, Balcony Stalls, and Boxes. Box Office open from Ten till Four, no fees for Booking.

CANTERBURY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Under Royal Patronage.—Best Entertainment in the World. Variety Artists at Eight. Pantomime, the King of the Centaur; and Anna, at 9.30. PERI OF PERU, an original Musical Eccentricity, at Ten. Miss Nellie Power, supported by Misses Alice Holt, Broughton, Powell, Aguzzi, and the Corps de Ballet. Prices, 6d. to 2s. 2s.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW-YEAR'S HOLIDAYS, 1879. ST. JAMES'S GRAND HALL, REGENT-STREET and PICCADILLY.

MOORE and BURGESS MINSTRELS' FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SERIES of HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES will commence on

BOXING DAY, FRIDAY NEXT, DEC. 26,

on and after which date Performances will be given

EVERY AFTERNOON AND EVERY NIGHT,

until the termination of the Holidays.

The world-wide reputation of this distinguished combination of Artists is an assurance that the ENTERTAINMENT WILL (as heretofore) TAKE THE LARGEST BANK amidst the host of amusements produced for the delectation of the thousands of holiday-makers at Yule-tide.

THE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

will be one of the Most Sparkling and Attractive ever presented by the Moore and Burgess Minstrels since they opened here in 1865.

To give due effect to the

CHRISTMAS AND NEW-YEAR'S ENTERTAINMENTS,

an entirely New Stage Front and appropriate Scenic Embellishments have been painted by that eminent artist, Richard Douglass, Esq.

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No Fees of any description. No charge for Programmes. Every West-End omnibus runs direct to the doors of St. James's Hall. Visitors can also board from any station on the Metropolitan & Metropolitan District Railways right to the doors of the St. James's Hall.
Prices of Admission on—Fautouls, 5s.; Stalls, 2s.; Balcony, 2s.; Gallery and 1st Area (2s. 6d.). Children under twelve years of age half-price to 1s. 6d., and 1s. 3d. Visitors arriving at any of the Railway termini in the Metropolis can reach St. James's Hall by omnibus.

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INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.

The FOURTEENTH WINTER EXHIBITION IS NOW OPEN, from Ten till Six. Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d. H. F. PHILLIPS, Secretary. Gallery, 63, Pall-mall.

DORÉ'S GREAT WORKS.—"ECCE HOMO" ("Full of divine dignity,"—The Times), and "THE ASCENSION," "CHRIST LEAVING THE TABERNACLE," "CHRIST ENTERING JERUSALEM," with all his other Great Pictures.—DORÉ GALLERY, 35, New Bond-street. Daily, 10 to 6. 1s.

NOW OPEN.—THE ANNUAL WINTER EXHIBITION of HIGH-CLASS PICTURES at Mr. ARTHUR TOOTH'S GALLERY, 6, Haymarket (opposite Her Majesty's Theatre). Admission, One Shilling, including Catalogue.

MASKELYNE and COOKE.—Christmas Programme.

EVERY DAY at Three and Eight during the Christmas Holidays, commencing BOXING DAY.—Mr. MASKELYNE'S amusing Extravaganza SENSATIONAL, in Two Parts, and SCHEVINE, in Two Pieces, embracing new Startling Illusions and surprising Special Effects, and including one or two of the more prominent features of the popular scenes "Eliza Vite" and "Zach." As in all holiday seasons the Egyptian Hall overflows with visitors, it is advisable to book seats in advance to prevent disappointment.

MR. and MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL, Langham-place. Managers, Messrs. Alfred Reed and Corney Grain.—THE PHATE'S HOME, by Gilbert A. Beckett, Music by Vivian Bligh; after which MASTER TOMMY'S "AT HOME," by Mr. Corney Grain; concluding with A CHRISTMAS STOKING. Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday Evenings, at Eight. Morning Performances every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at Three. Admission, 1s., 2s., 3s., and 5s.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1879.

It is well that Christmastide infolds the memory of facts and sentiments fitted to stimulate hope and joy in the breasts of men, for we greatly need just now something cheerful to fall back upon. The year 1879 has been an exceptionally trying one. Neither in regard to weather, to production, to commerce, or to politics has it been genial in its character, and some traces, we fear, of its unfriendly influence may be detected in the tone of the

public mind. It needs a short spell, at least, of cheerier days to restore to it equanimity. That externally the chances of our need will be supplied by the Christmas Holidays do not appear to be very strong. Wintry weather, and that, moreover, of a severe type, has prevailed for some time over Western Europe. Foggy days and frosty nights have sorely tested the constitutional strength of that large majority who have neither leisure nor opportunity to take part in the outdoor exercises and sports of the season. Most of us, it is true, have still some reserve of vitality, latent, it may be, but nevertheless not wholly inaccessible. Things are not intolerable with us, even if our outlook is of a sombre hue. The stronger, accordingly, is our motive to colour the life which remains to us with all the warmth and brightness of the ensuing festival. We may do this, at least to a considerable extent, by resolutely going out of ourselves, and, with manly energy, setting ourselves to promote the good of others. We cannot do much, perhaps, but something we can all do. The instruments available for our purpose may be comparatively weak and adapted only to bring about temporary and superficial effects; but, such as they are, the employment of them will raise our spirits above the region of factitious depression. There are few amongst us who cannot derive an increase of benevolent energy from the old-fashioned lines—

Christmas comes but once a year.

And when it comes it brings good cheer.

The progress of the arts has brought with it new methods of pleasure-giving intercommunication between mind and mind. The very literature of Christmastide has grown to be what we may fairly style a novel luxury. Some of the best minds do not shrink from contributing their quota to the intellectual pleasures of the season. Oh! what would we not have given in our youthful days for the treasures which are now provided for mental regalement. Unlike the abounding materials of mere physical gratification, they are usually devoid of deleterious stuff. They may be fed upon by the intellectual powers without ruin to the digestive organs. Some of them may be light and trifling; the bulk of them may chiefly serve for present entertainment; but almost all of them contain some nutriment that may serve to enrich, mentally or morally, the system that receives them. Then, to "Christmas books" let us add "Christmas cards." Light, tasteful, fascinating missives—in every variety of pleasing guise they pass from home to home, from family to family, from friend to friend, to touch momentarily and to quicken into instant flame any spark of love that may have smouldered during the year under the dust and ashes always associated with the world's drudgery. A breath of true love, a sign of affectionate remembrance, a token that one's life is not wholly buried in one's own affairs, inevitably tends to purify the heart; and if Christmas brought with it no more powerful agencies to pierce the hard crust of everyday existence than those connected with the literature and art to which the festival has given rise, we have reason enough to welcome it with gladsome anticipation.

But Christmas offers us other and, perhaps, higher recommendations than those we have adverted to. It is the special time of social gatherings. Myriads upon myriads of homes draw to their respective hospitable boards those members of the circle who are still within reach, or who have not yet formed centres of their own. Such gatherings, no doubt, have their drawbacks. Some guest of last year may this year be missing, and the vacant seat may recall sorrowful reminiscences. There may be, as, for the most part, there must be, some almost visible declension of enthusiastic sympathy between members whose pursuits take them into widely-distant spheres of thought, feeling, and occupation. A little formality, some stiffness, nay, occasional altercation, may take off that edge of pleasure which Christmas jovialities appear to warrant. But the real value of these meetings will be better tested by the yearning desire which the remembrance of them quickens in the bosom of those who have left their home, either permanently for other lands, or for a fixed period in the service of their country. Christmas always touches their hearts as no other Festival does. They hail it and, if possible, observe its rites, with a gladness and depth of emotion seldom experienced even by those at home. They are often recalled by it to the domestic influences which, it may be, find no other way of access to their hearts. Nor, again, ought we, nor can we, forget what the Festival is to children—how real, how joyous, how stirring, how fraught with wholesome influences for time to come.

After all, however, Christmastide claims even a higher style of devotion and activity than any we have yet mentioned. "Peace on earth and goodwill to men" is its motto, and such should be the aim and tendency of the motives which it calls into exercise. Especially should this be the case amid the severities by which we are surrounded. Be it remembered that Christmas liberality to those who stand in need of it may be safely indulged without pauperising effects. It is an occasion too seldom recurrent to undermine the sense, or the spirit, of independence. It need enervate no one. It may go where it lists without harm to any. Even our criminals:

and the inmates of our unions will have their brief flash of enjoyment, and we may leave them to their respective authorities. But, outside their domain, how many thousands there are who must be sought out with a view to, we will not say their relief, but their realisation of at least a blessed interval of the "good will" which Christianity should inspire. Few of us, we trust, are in the least likely to forget this. Few require any incitements beyond those incident to the Festival and to the season. A little discriminative wisdom in the dispensation of charity at such a time is all that is needed. Even where, individually, one may be at a loss to make one's bounty do the best for its objects, there are plenty of philanthropic organisations ready and even eager to aid him in the task.

THE COURT.

The Queen, accompanied by Princess Louise of Lorne, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold, arrived at Osborne House on Thursday week from Windsor Castle. Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar visited her Majesty the next day, and remained to luncheon. On Sunday the Queen, Princess Louise of Lorne, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold attended Divine service, performed at Osborne by the Rev. Canon Prothero. Her Majesty's customary Christmas gifts to those attached to the Court and to the several Royal estates, as well as to the poor of Windsor, have been distributed in the usual manner.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

The Prince and Princess of Wales were present at a concert given yesterday week by the Amateur Orchestral Society at the Royal Albert Hall in aid of the funds of the German Hospital, Dalston. Princess Christian visited the Prince and Princess of Wales at Marlborough House on Saturday, and remained to luncheon. Prince Ferdinand of Glucksburg and Prince Louis of Battenberg left Marlborough House for the Continent. The Prince and Princess attended Divine service on Sunday at St. Mark's, Hamilton-terrace, St. Marylebone. The Rev. Canon Duckworth, the Vicar, officiated. Their Royal Highnesses have returned to Sandringham for the Christmas. The Royal gifts to the dependants upon the Norfolk estates have been distributed at Sandringham.

The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh gave a dinner party and carpet dance during the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales at Eastwell Park. The Duke, Admiral Superintendent of Naval Reserves, will early in the ensuing year inspect the London brigade of this force.

Lord Beaconsfield has left town for Hughenden, Lord Salisbury for Hatfield, Lord Cranbrook for his seat at Hempstead, Mr. Cross for Eccletriggs, the Duke of Richmond and Gordon for Goodwood, the Duke of Northumberland for Alnwick Castle, Colonel the Right Hon. F. A. Stanley, M.P., for Witherslack Hall, Viscount Sandon for Sandon Hall, and the Lord Chancellor and Countess Cairns for Lindistarne Lodge, Bournemouth. Lord Carlingford arrived at The Priory, Chewton Mendip, on Saturday, from Dudbrook, Essex.

The marriage of Viscount Lewisham, M.P., with Lady Mary Coke, fourth daughter of the Earl of Leicester, took place on Thursday week at Holkham church. The bridegroom was accompanied by his brother, the Hon. Henry C. Legge, of the Coldstream Guards, as best man. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by ten bridesmaids—namely, the Ladies Frances, Elizabeth, and Georgiana Legge, sisters of the bridegroom; Ladies Evelyn and Muriel Murray, Ladies Winifred and Hilda Clements, Miss Nora Strutt, and Miss Julia Buller, nieces of the bride, and Miss Garnier. The bride wore a dress of white satin, trimmed with old point lace and orange-flowers, and, over a wreath composed of orange-blossoms, a veil of the same old lace. Her jewels were pearls and diamonds. The bridesmaids were dressed in white costumes, and each lady wore a brooch on which was a jewelled fly, the gift of the bridegroom. The nuptial rite was performed by the Rev. A. Napier, Vicar of Holkham, assisted by the Hon. and Rev. George B. Legge, uncle of the bridegroom. After the ceremony the Earl of Countess of Leicester entertained a large party at breakfast. Lord Lewisham and his bride left Holkham for Cromer to pass the early days of the honeymoon. The bride's travelling-dress was of a rich ruby colour trimmed with dark fur, with jacket and bonnet to match. Lady Mary's wedding presents numbered about 300, including gifts from the Prince and Princess of Wales and presents from the tenantry on Lord Dartmouth's estates.

THE JEWS' SOUP KITCHEN, SPITALFIELDS.

In Fashion-street, Spitalfields, which is by no means a street of fashion, the benevolence of well-to-do Jewish Londoners has established this winter an institution for that divine and human good office, feeding the hungry and destitute poor, which is enjoined by the Law and the Prophets, as well as by the Christian Gospel. This charity of the Israelites, indeed, in whom there is no guile, does not confine itself to the relief of Jewish poverty, which occupies its own place in that depressed quarter of East-End London; but the poor Jewish are first attended to, as there are several other local agencies, connected with the Church and Dissenting religious associations, for the benefit of distressed families among the general population. We give an illustration of the Jews' Soup Kitchen, at which, on three nights of each week during the hard season, about 450 gallons of soup, and from 12 cwt. to 14 cwt. of bread, are given away to more than 500 needy families. The distribution is admirably conducted by Mr. G. Myers, the superintendent of this charitable establishment. It is managed by a committee, of which Mr. D. Jameson is president, and Messrs. Samuel Levy and F. E. Lezard are vice-presidents; the Rev. Dr. N. M. Adler, Chief Rabbi, is patron; and among the subscribers are Sir Moses Montefiore, the Rothschilds, and several members of the Corporation of the City of London.

Eton College closed yesterday week for the Christmas vacation. The holidays last till Jan. 21.

Lord Colville of Culross, K.T., has been unanimously elected chairman of the Great Northern Railway Company, in the place of the late Colonel Duncombe.

Sir Massey Lopes, M.P., as one of the Lords of the Admiralty, on the 18th inst. distributed the prizes to the cadets on board the training-ship *Britannia*, at Dartmouth, and in the course of his address said that the materiel and personnel of the Navy were never better or more efficient than at the present time. He encouraged the cadets to follow the example of illustrious naval officers who had gone before them in upholding the dignity and honour of the British flag in every quarter of the globe.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

In the Chamber of Deputies on the 18th inst. the amendment proposed by M. Keller to the Public Worship Budget, in favour of restoring the salaries of Archbishops and Bishops to their former amounts, was, although supported by the Government, rejected by 257 to 226 votes. The House further resolved to adhere to the various items of the Budget as previously voted, thus rejecting the modifications introduced by the Senate. A motion made by M. Perin, of the Extreme Left, for the appointment of a Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry into the penitentiary system in New Caledonia, was accepted by the Minister of Marine, and adopted. In the Senate on the 19th, after the adoption of a certain number of bills of local interest, M. Léon Say, Minister of Finance, laid before the House the Budget amended by the Chamber of Deputies, which was immediately consigned to the Finance Committee. Subventions of 12,000*fr.* to the Théâtre des Nations and the Théâtre de l'Opéra Populaire were afterwards voted by 151 to 37. A "scene" in the Chamber of Deputies has been followed by the resignation of the whole of the Waddington Cabinet. The crisis was provoked by M. Raynal, who, after having unsuccessfully asked General Gresley in private to dismiss from the army M. de Carayon Latour for the part he took at a Chambord banquet on Michaelmas Day, publicly demanded it from the Tribune, and pointed out that while M. Latour remained unpunished two of his subordinates, who were present on the same occasion, had been removed from their commands. The Minister for War replied that he would not overrule the finding of a military Court, walked straight out of the House, and proceeding to the Elysée, handed his resignation to the President. A similar step was taken by all his colleagues. M. de Freycinet was charged to form a new Cabinet, but the result of his efforts was not known when our early edition was put to press on Monday evening. Both Houses have adjourned till Jan. 14.

After having been put off for a week on account of the extremely bad state of the weather, the fête for the benefit of the sufferers by the inundations in Murcia was given on the 18th inst. in Paris, with great success.

M. Maze, a Moderate Republican, was on Sunday elected deputy for Versailles by 4480 votes against 1261 given to M. Buffenoir, the Radical candidate.

The Senate office-bearers have intimated that the pictures of living artists must be removed from the Luxembourg, the whole palace being required by that body.

One hundred and fifty more Communists have had their sentences remitted.

GERMANY.

Prince William of Prussia, the eldest son of the Crown Prince, has had a fall, causing a slight contusion of the right leg, which confined him to his room for a few days.

By an overwhelming majority, the Upper House of the Prussian Assembly has approved the bill for enabling the State to acquire proprietary rights over private railways. The Lower House concluded on the 18th a debate upon a petition from the town of Elbing against the action of Herr von Puttkammer, Minister of Public Worship, in interdicting the opening of an unsectarian school in that town, and rejected by 245 votes to 147 a motion of Dr. Gneist to refer the petition to the Government for consideration.

Yesterday week the Minister of Finance, in reply to a question, stated that in Upper Silesia the destitution had recently increased, and that 80,000 people were in extreme want. The distress was mainly due to a bad harvest and disastrous floods, and had been rendered more severe by a hard winter, typhus fever, and usury. After the holidays the Government would bring forward proposals for affording relief to the sufferers. Last Saturday, after transacting some unimportant business before a row of almost empty benches, the House of Deputies adjourned for the Christmas holidays till Jan. 8.

At a banquet given at Strasbourg last Thursday, at which most of the members of the Provincial Committee were present, General von Manteuffel made a speech, in which he said it was far from his intention to judge those who had turned their backs upon Alsace-Lorraine, who did not bring up their children on the mother-soil, or who held themselves aloof from the deliberations of the district Diets and Provincial Committee. His present object was to gain for Alsace-Lorraine full independence in regard to legislation and the Imperial Constitution. Alsace-Lorraine had neither been occupied nor annexed, but reclaimed after a series of wars which had been forced upon Germany. He added that Alsace-Lorraine, having now equal rights with all the other provinces of the Empire, ought to resume its former place among them. At the present moment it was in a transition state, and the General urged the co-operation of all classes, with the view of shortening even the period of transition.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

The Emperor Francis Joseph received the Presidents of the Austrian and Hungarian Delegations on the 18th inst. In reply to an address which they presented, his Majesty said that the close alliance with Germany was a guarantee that universal tranquillity would be established. In Bosnia and the Herzegovina the Government was earnestly carrying out its task of conferring the benefits of civilisation upon these provinces, so severely tried by the neglect and confusion of centuries. At a sitting of the Delegation of the Austrian Reichsrath held the next evening the bill submitted by the Common Austro-Hungary Ministry for the defrayal of the common expenses for January and February next year was read unanimously the second and third time.

The Upper House of the Austrian Reichsrath on the 18th inst. again voted upon the Army Bill, and unanimously adhered to its former decision in favour of the measure as originally introduced by the Government. Both Houses thereupon elected representatives for a Committee of Conference. The Lower House of the Austrian Reichsrath passed the Army Bill last Saturday by the necessary two thirds vote, in the form proposed by the Government.

The Austrian Army Bill has been rejected by the Cisleithan Parliament, a smaller number than the requisite two thirds majority voting for the second clause, which determined the fate of the whole measure.

The Croatian Diet on Saturday last adopted the bill for the prolongation of the compromise between Croatia and Hungary, after two stormy sittings, by 44 votes to 13.

RUSSIA.

It has been officially announced that the stay of the Empress in a southern climate has not proved so beneficial as was expected.

The *Daily News* correspondent at St. Petersburg hears from a good source that it has been decided to grant in January next municipal institutions in all the chief towns of Poland, and to allow the use of the Polish language in the sittings of the Councils.

AMERICA.

The *Times* correspondent at Philadelphia telegraphs an account more than a column in length of General Grant's reception at Philadelphia on the 16th inst. The pageant

appears to have been one of the most imposing ever seen in the United States. The procession contained 70,000 men and 25,000 horses, the route traversed was nine miles in length, and the number of spectators is said to have been at least 1,000,000. The procession was, however, too much to handle in a single day. Although it started at half-past ten in the morning, it was almost nightfall before the last division started, and when night set in the procession broke up, all leaving the line wherever they might be. General Grant, whose welcome is said to have been most enthusiastic, dined in the evening with the surviving members of his Cabinets, General Sherman, and other distinguished guests. He declared the demonstration to have exceeded anything he had expected.

General Grant has denied having accepted the presidency of the Nicaragua Canal Company, but has declined to make any further statement in regard to the subject.

We learn from the Philadelphia correspondent of the *Times* that Senator Cameron, Pennsylvania, has been elected chairman of the Republican National Committee; and that General Mahone, by the combination of the Readjusters and the Republicans in the Virginia Legislature, has been elected United States senator for Virginia.

Fifteen hundred dollars were subscribed at a meeting at St. Paul, Minnesota, last week, for the relief of the Irish poor. A large meeting was held at San Francisco yesterday week to express sympathy with the sufferers from the prevailing distress in Ireland. A resolution was adopted that Mr. Parnell be invited to visit San Francisco during his tour in the United States. A plan was also agreed upon for the collection of funds for the relief of Irish distress.

CANADA.

A despatch from Ottawa states that the *Official Gazette* contains notice of an application to the Dominion Parliament for powers to incorporate a company to construct a railway from Winnipeg to Hudson's Bay, and to establish a line of ocean steamers in connection with the new railway. Two notices have already appeared in the *Gazette* respecting similar applications for the formation of companies for the construction of a line of railway from Sault de St. Marie, in Michigan, to Lake Nipissing, in Upper Canada; and a third notice to the same effect was published yesterday week.

On appeal the Court of Queen's Bench at Montreal has set aside the verdict of guilty found against Sir Francis Hincks, president of the Consolidated Bank, of having signed false returns to the Government respecting the affairs of the bank.

Further advices received at Victoria, British Columbia, from Kamloops state that the outlaws who attacked the Indians have been arrested, after committing several fresh murders.

Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne), previous to her leaving Ottawa for England, gave instructions for a "clearing" to be made in the woods of Rideau Hall and a veritable backwoods shanty to be constructed upon it. The work is now in progress, and will be ready when she returns to Canada.

Sir Leonard Tilley, Finance Minister of the Dominion, in a public speech delivered at the capital on Nov. 27, claimed that results are justifying his contention that the new tariff would affect imports from the United States rather than from Great Britain. He stated that during the first two months of the current fiscal year (July and August) the imports of leading manufactures from England showed a falling off in value of only 9 per cent as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, while the imports from the United States had fallen off 47 per cent in the same time. For the first three months, notwithstanding the large importations made in anticipation of the new tariff, and which were not then exhausted, the value of imports from Great Britain had decreased only 10 per cent, while that of those from the United States had fallen off 50 per cent. In cotton goods he had expected to find the diminution very great; but during these three months there was actually an increase of 8 per cent from Great Britain, although there was a decrease of 43 per cent from the United States. In iron and steel manufactures there was an increase of 40 per cent from Great Britain, and a decrease of 33 per cent from the United States. The increase in value of leather goods imported from Great Britain was 20 per cent, with a decrease from the United States of 43 per cent.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Our latest news from Cape Town is at length definite and complete. The storming of Moiros's stronghold has been speedily followed by the fall of Secocoeni's town. We may now look, therefore, for an end of the whole series of troubles in which we have been involved in South Africa. The attack was made at daybreak on Nov. 28. Colonel Murray commanded the centre, Captain Ferrier the right, and Captain Carrington the left wing. The Swazies attacked the place from the east. The town was captured and the caves were cleared at ten o'clock in the morning. Subsequently all the forces stormed the place. Captain Macaulay, late of the 12th Prince of Wales's Royal Lancers, and Captain Lawrell, of the 4th Hussars (Queen's Own) were killed; Captain Beeton, Lieutenant O'Grady, of the 4th Regiment, and Lieutenant Dewar, of the King's 1st Dragoon Guards, were severely, and Captain Maurice was slightly wounded. The enemy's loss was heavy. The Colonial Secretary has returned to Cape Town.

A Melbourne telegram dated the 18th inst. says that the Victorian Parliament will be dissolved in February next.

We learn from Madrid that several persons have been arrested there for raising seditious cries.

The Bern Council has approved the proposed loan of 17,000,000*fr.*

The Postmaster-General announces that on Jan. 1 next Venezuela will enter into the Postal Union.

Two thousand seven hundred coal-miners belonging to the "Cinq Puits" pits at Quaregnon, Belgium, have struck work.

Copious rains are reported to have fallen on the coast of Morocco, giving prospects of a good harvest next year. In some of the southern provinces, however, matters remain in a pitiable condition.

We understand that the India Office, in consequence of the brilliant services rendered to the State by the late Sir Louis Cavagnari, has granted a special pension of £500 per annum to Lady Cavagnari, the widow, and of £100 per annum to Madame Cavagnari, the mother of the gallant officer.

The *New York Times* says:—"The third and last Session of the forty-sixth Congress will begin on the first Monday in December, 1880, and will expire by the limitation of the existence of the Congress, March 4, 1881." March 4, 1881, is also the day on which the twenty-first Parliament of the United Kingdom will expire by limitation of law, unless its life shall have been previously cut short by proclamation.

A Bluebook containing further correspondence respecting the affairs of South Africa has been issued. It extends over 231 pages, and is accompanied by a map of the native territories beyond the boundaries of Griqualand West. The despatches extend from Sept. 12, 1878, to Aug. 14, 1879. Another Parliamentary paper issued is a return of warrants and orders relating to public records.



SIRDAR ABDUL KHALIK KHAN, CHIEF OF BEZOOT.

SKETCHED BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST, MR. W. SIMPSON, LATE IN AFGHANISTAN.

THE AFGHAN WAR.

The position of affairs with the British army at Cabul, which was described last week, continues to be a subject of much anxiety. General Sir Frederick Roberts has collected his troops within the cantonments at Sherpur, a mile and a half north of the city of Cabul, below the Bamaroo or Behmaru range of hills. A reconnaissance sketch map of Cabul and its environs, which is engraved for this number of our Journal, shows the topographical situation of Sherpur.

The following extract from a letter written in October, soon after the British occupation of Cabul, will assist the comprehension of neighbouring localities.

"About a mile and a half to the north-east of the Bala Hissar is the site of the British cantonments occupied by our troops in 1840 and 1841. We went over the ground in the course of a recent morning ride; but, beyond the remains of a small part of the rampart on the western side, there is nothing now to show that the place ever consisted of anything other than the fields of rice and Indian corn that now cover it. The gardens and trees that used to adorn it were all destroyed and utilised as forage or fuel before the troops left the cantonments on their disastrous march to Jellalabad; and the houses and barracks were burned to the ground by the fanatical mob of

Afghans the instant they were vacated. It was difficult for us to realise the fact that here there was for two years a large British cantonment in which English ladies and children had lived. Ascending the low range of hills behind the village of Behmaru, 500 yards north of the old cantonment, on which the blood of many a gallant British soldier was spilt in those terrible months of November and December, 1841, an excellent and extensive view of the surrounding plain is obtained. The village of Behmaru is still the same miserable collection of mud hovels which I imagine it was forty years ago, when it so often gave cover to our implacable enemies. The forts which encircled the cantonments, and whose names have yet a mournful celebrity to us, are still standing, but most of them in a dilapidated state. The Rakab Bashi Fort, which cost British troops upwards of 200 men to capture, would now be untenable against any attack. Mahomed Sherif's Fort, from which a British garrison of European and native troops was once disgracefully driven, still stands in good condition. The famous commissariat fort, the loss of which was one great cause of the subsequent disasters, has been considerably altered. Mahmud Khan's Fort, at which our troops never were bold enough to look, still looks as formidable a place as it must have then appeared to our panic-stricken Generals. Between the last-mentioned fort and the Cabul River is the spot where the British Envoy

was murdered. The site of the cantonments has been universally condemned, and the size of the work was also too great for defence. But when one remembers that the garrison consisted of five thousand British troops, with abundance of ammunition, there can be no doubt that, however disadvantageous the position was, if they had been properly handled, all the Afghans in the country could never have triumphed over them. From the hill behind Behmaru a good view of the Bala Hissar and the City of Cabul is obtained, and on the other north side stretches out the green meadow of Wazirabad, the centre of which is occupied by a lake, which sometimes dries up. On the very side of the old British cantonments the late Ameer, Sher Ali Khan, commenced the erection of an enormous line of barracks for his troops. The design, which is being carried to completion by the present Ameer, is to form a huge fortified inclosure, one side of which will be formed by the Behmaru hills already mentioned. The side parallel to the hills is almost complete. It is about a mile long, and consists of a series of small rooms, but built against a high thick mud wall, having an arched verandah running along the front. The western side has also been nearly finished. The official name of this imposing-looking place is Sherpur, after the late Ameer, but the people generally talk of it as the new city. It could easily contain half the city



A JUVENILE CHRISTMAS PARTY IN THE LAST CENTURY: "SIR ROGER DE COVERLEY."—SEE PAGE 594.

DRAWN BY KATE GREENAWAY.

of Cabul within its walls. The late Amcer intended to have built himself a palace here, and we were shown a site on the brow of the hill which he had levelled for it."

Our Special Artist lately in Afghanistan, Mr. William Simpson, who accompanied the head-quarters of Lieutenant-General Sir S. Browne in the advance through the Khyber Pass to Jellalabad a twelvemonth ago, contributes the portrait which he sketched of Abdul Khalik Khan, a Mohammedan, the Chief of Bezoot. The district of Bezoot, he informs us, is situated on the north side of the Cabul river, opposite Jellalabad. This local and tribal ruler, Abdul Khalik Khan, met the column of troops under command of Sir Samuel Browne, in December of last year, at Chardeh, on its march to Jellalabad, and offered his services as a friend and ally. He remained from that time in the British head-quarters camp, attached to Major Cavagnari, the Political Officer, as a sort of native agent with the other Afghan tribes. From the knowledge he had of the country and its people, Abdul Khalik Khan was enabled to make himself useful, and he continued with the camp until the treaty of Gundamak with Yakoub Khan was concluded, making quite a prominent figure amongst the staff and its visitors. Our Special Artist further supplies two illustrations of ordinary rustic or village life in Afghanistan, from his sketches taken on the march, or in his excursions up the adjacent valleys; and these are of a peaceful and pleasing character. The disposition of little children, at the age when they are fond of making mud-pies, is not very different in Afghanistan from that of children in other countries. The children's heads are generally shaven, leaving tufts here and there—some of these tufts are plaited into rather longish tails, which hang down. One peculiarity is that all Afghan children wear charms, which are generally verses of the Koran sewn up into cloth or leather, and worn by strings round the neck. The other sketch is that of Afghan women busied in spinning, which is an occupation common to many parts of the East where woollen fabrics are worn. In Afghanistan there are sheep and goats, and the wool of the camel is also made into cloth; and the cold winter of the climate demands warm clothing. Although not seen on the plains of India, where the thinnest of cottons is enough for the heat, this is a common sight in Afghanistan and in the Himalayas, where the cold winter also demands a warm covering for the body. The spinning is produced by giving the two cross bits of wood, on which the yarn is wound, a jerk with the fore finger and thumb, by which it whirls round, and this twines the portion of thread by which it hangs.

ADVANCE ON CABUL.

At the time of going to press with our first edition, as early as Monday this Christmas week, telegraphic messages from Lord Lytton had been received at the India Office announcing that General Gough has found himself strong enough to move forwards from Juggdullak. He quitted that post on Sunday, in compliance with a request from General Roberts, who, writing on the 18th inst., strongly urged an immediate advance in light marching order, because he had reason to believe the road open the whole way to Cabul. General Gough takes with him only 1400 men altogether, as it was necessary to leave a sufficient force behind him at Peizeran and Juggdullak to keep open his communications. At Lataband, however, some twenty miles on the road, he is to pick up a force numbering 700 men, which appears to have been left there all this time without the Viceroy being acquainted with the fact. If General Gough was rightly informed when recently telegraphing that the whole country in his front had risen, this body must have been placed in somewhat perilous circumstances, and will scarcely be sorry when relieved by the Juggdullak column. It would appear from the tone of General Roberts's despatch urging this immediate advance that his chief object in pressing it was to obtain sufficient reinforcements to enable him to assume a vigorous offensive. The Sherpur cantonments need a large garrison to man their long lines of defences, and it would be very risky work, therefore, for General Roberts to sally forth until reinforced, since everything depends upon the safety of the supplies stored at Sherpur. A Calcutta telegram states that General Roberts, before evacuating Bala Hissar, "made arrangements" for destroying the bulk of the ammunition there stored. The same source of information asserts that the whole of the guns which fell into our hands from first to last had been removed to Sherpur and there parked before the evacuation took place.

The Government of India publishes a note explanatory of the military situation in Afghanistan, which commences by showing that General Roberts has now with him 7500 effective troops and twenty-three guns, with ample transport and ammunition, and five months' supplies. The troops are in excellent health, and the whole force is collected and sheltered within a very strong intrenched position at Sherpur. General Roberts has further 214 guns of various calibre, many being rifled, together with large stores of ammunition for the defence of the intrenchments, which can easily be held by 2500, leaving 5000 free for offensive action. The troops now under the command of General Bright, stationed between Jumrood and Juggdullak, number 12,000, with thirty guns, supplies for two months, and complete divisional and brigade carriage. Orders have further been issued for the formation of a reserve division at Peshawur, consisting of three cavalry and ten infantry regiments, with twenty-four guns. General Stewart has 9000 effective troops, with sixty-two guns, at and below Candahar; and General Watson has 9000 men and twenty guns in the Kurum Valley, making a total field force of 45,000 men, with 160 guns, which is considered ample for present requirements.

"SIR ROGER DE COVERLEY."

It may be doubted whether the sweetest strain of Mozart ever so stirs the pulses as the simple, jiggling tune to which "Sir Roger de Coverley" is danced. This favourite country dance, if shorn now of some of its complex figures, is still as deservedly in request at Christmas Parties as it was in the good old times whereof Addison wrote, and of which Miss Kate Greenaway has drawn a characteristically quaint picture. At first glance the forming of two parallel lines, one of ladies and the other of gentlemen, may be objected on the score that each is separated from his partner for too long a period. But what of that? This is not unseldom an absence which emphatically makes the heart grow fonder. He must have a heart of adamant who could resist the light artillery of a maiden's eyes firing love-laden missiles point-blank at him. And then the opportunity for frequent tender pressures as the couples bend and pass beneath the arch of arms, with the supreme moment when at last the time arrives for the last couple to be first, and the opportunity is given by the long anticipated exhibition of triptichorean skill of the old school. "Doth not a meeting like this make amends" for each momentary separation? The cynic may admire "Sir Roger de Coverley" for quite another reason. He may attribute a host's delight at hearing the familiar tune to the knowledge that it is generally the last dance, and

that the prolonged festivity is at length on the eve of closing. But we refuse to enter into the feelings of our cynic for a single moment. Let us return to our "Sir Roger de Coverley," and lose our hearts once again to the prim, demure little ladies whom Miss Kate Greenaway has limned with dainty grace. Let us say, in conclusion, that, as ladies have shown a marked inclination to revert to the fashions of fifty or a hundred years ago in a modified form, it would not be a matter of surprise if this illustration should serve as a model for the dresses of many a Children's Fancy Ball, such as the Lord Mayor of London delights his young friends with in the Egyptian Hall of the Mansion House.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

The Court of the Drapers' Company have given twenty-five guineas to the Society for Preventing Street Accidents and Dangerous Driving.

Mr. Rowland Matthews concluded the sale of the art-properties of the late Hon. St. John Buller, of Portrane Manor, Ireland, the total of the two days' sale being £5732 18s. 6d.

The theatre of the London Institution was crowded on the 18th inst. with an audience which had gathered to listen to a lecture by Mr. W. A. Barrett, Mus. Bac., Oxon, on Carols for Christmas and other Festive Seasons.

Yesterday week the anniversary festival of the Commercial Travellers' Schools was held at the Freemasons' Tavern—Mr. Warren De La Rue in the chair. During the evening contributions to the amount of £1716 were announced.

An ordination was held at St. Paul's on Sunday by the Bishop of London, who was attended by the Dean of St. Paul's, the Archdeacon of Middlesex, the Rev. Prebendary Cadman, and the Rev. Dr. Gifford.

Before an audience which crowded the extemporised theatre from floor to ceiling, "The Trinumus" of Plautus was presented for the third and last time on the 18th inst. in the dormitory of St. Peter's College, Westminster.

The managers of the Royal Institution have awarded the Actonian prize of £105 to Mr. G. S. Boulger, F.L.S., F.G.S., for an essay on The Structure and Functions of the Retina in all classes of Animals, viewed in Relation with the Theory of Evolution.

Lord Chelmsford presided yesterday week at the annual prize distribution of the 46th Middlesex Rifles at St. James's Hall, and spoke at length in regard to the qualities demanded of a good soldier. Mrs. Routledge, the wife of the commanding officer, distributed the prizes.

The Crystal Palace School of Practical Engineering has completed the seventh year of its existence, and it was stated at the distribution of certificates to the successful students last Saturday that during that period there had been inspected and signed no less than 90,000 lecture questions.

At the meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works yesterday week the finance committee submitted the estimates of the sums required to be raised by rate in the metropolitan district for 1880. The total net charge for the ensuing year is £645,500, against a net charge in 1879 of £581,196.

The Psychological Society of Great Britain has resolved, almost unanimously, that, inasmuch as it was founded by Mr. Sergeant Cox for a special object, which has in some measure been attained, and as his loss is practically irreparable, it is expedient that the society should be dissolved as from the 31st inst.

Yesterday week the Mansion House Committee of the Rowland Hill Memorial met for the dispatch of business in the Long Parlour. Mr. Alderman Nottage presided. The fund was reported to amount to between £6000 and £7000. The names of Lord Beaconsfield and others were added to the committee. A colonial sub-committee was appointed to aid the committee's appeal, as was also a working men's committee.

The annual meeting of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund was held on the 18th inst. at the Mansion House. Sir Rutherford Alcock presided at the commencement of the proceedings, and Alderman Sir Sydney Waterlow at the close. Sir Rutherford Alcock said they had every reason to be satisfied with the year's collections, which, notwithstanding the depression which existed in the country, were larger than in the previous year. The rules which had been in force during the past year were renewed for the current year, and the council were re-elected. June 13 was fixed as Hospital Sunday for 1880.

It is proposed to open in South London an industrial exhibition for three weeks at Easter, 1880, if manufacturers and artisans will send for exhibition a sufficient number of articles. It is especially desired to show the various stages of art manufacture, such as colour-printing, pottery, and so forth. It is also proposed to hold at Easter, 1881, an exhibition limited strictly to the actual work of the exhibitors. Both exhibitions will be held in the rooms of the South London Working Men's College and those of the Free Library. All communications respecting them should be addressed to the secretary, Mr. William Rossiter, at the College, 143, Upper Kennington-lane.

The Lord Mayor presided on the 18th inst. at a meeting of the Court of Common Council, held in the Guildhall. As chairman of the Coal, Corn, and Finance Committee, Mr. Hart moved a report recommending that a gratuity of £3500 should be given to the City solicitor, Mr. Nelson, and £350 to Mr. L. F. Littell, in respect of services relative to the preservation of Epping Forest. Some amendments were proposed, but the report of the committee was eventually adopted, the sum to be given to Mr. Littell having, however, been unanimously increased to £500. Mr. John Cox gave notice of his intention of moving the rescinding of so much of the motion as related to the City solicitor.

Judgment has been given in the Court of Appeal in the case of "Hill and Others v. the Managers of the Metropolitan Asylums Districts." The action was brought against the defendants for creating a nuisance by establishing a small-pox hospital contiguous to the properties of the plaintiffs, and at the trial before Mr. Baron Pollock the jury found a verdict substantially in favour of the latter. The Queen's Bench, however, afterwards ordered a new trial, and from that judgment the present appeal was made. Judgment was given for a new trial, on condition that the defendants pay all the costs of the first trial, except those caused by the plaintiffs' contention that the defendants' negligently managed the hospital and some other matters.

The vast hall of Christ's Hospital presented on the night of the 18th inst. an animated spectacle. Preparatory to the breaking up for the Christmas vacation the Bluecoat boys gave their annual concert to a large audience of their relatives and friends. The Rev. G. Bennett, B.A., officiated as conductor; Mr. R. Hopkins, bandmaster; Mr. H. Collingwood Evans, organ; and Mr. Arthur Fox, pianoforte accompanist. The programme ranged from "The March of the Israelites," in "Eli," through a miscellaneous selection of sacred and secular music, including hunting, pastoral, and heroic songs and pieces, and embracing also airs from the lighter operettas, such as "Pinafore" and "Les Cloches de Corneville." All were given with spirit and precision.

A RELENTLESS PARENT.

BY R. BLACK.

"There's no time to lose, Sir; the bell's a-ringing," said a waiter, respectfully, to a young gentleman, some twenty years of age, who was walking restlessly up and down the coffee-room at the principal hotel of a certain English seaport, which shall be called Eastport, and who appeared to be in a brown study.

"Are you sure there's no telegram for me?" asked the young gentleman, almost fiercely, as he walked to the door of the hotel.

"Quite sure, Sir. No letter, Sir; nor yet no telegram."

"My luggage has been taken on board?"

"All aboard, Sir, this ten minutes; you'd better look sharp, Sir. I wish you a pleasant voyage, Sir."

The young gentleman smothered a sigh, which was very like a groan, and, nodding to the waiter a farewell and an acknowledgment which he could not trust himself to express in words, rushed across the road, down the steps, and over the plank which led on to the deck of a fine steamer. He was just in time.

"Touch and go," said the waiter to a chamber-maid, who was looking on with much interest; and he added, with a knowing leer, "She might ha' sent him her love by telegraph, mightn't she, Betsy?"

The chambermaid laughed and blushed, and went about her business.

Meanwhile the young gentleman had descended to the cabin, thrown himself upon a sofa, and, turning his face to the ship's side, buried his head between his arms, whilst his whole frame was convulsed with emotion. Thus he lay for a while, and was all unconscious of what went on around him. Else he would have seen that he did not altogether escape notice. A certain couple had entered the cabin; gazed at him for a moment; exchanged whispers, and departed as noiselessly as they had come. But he knew nothing of it.

And yet they were a noticeable couple—a fine, elderly gentleman, with silver hair, and a young girl of seventeen or eighteen summers, fair-haired, grey-eyed, graceful as laburnum, bright as a sunbeam, gentle as a dove. At sight of the prostrate, heaving figure, as they entered the cabin, they started and looked at each other inquiringly. All her brightness had vanished.

"In trouble, I fear," whispered the gentleman mournfully.

She stole one wistful glance at the prostrate form, and, sighing softly, whispered back, "Poor fellow! Let us go."

And so they left him solitary. Men say that Pity is akin to Love. But youth is elastic. Not many minutes had elapsed ere the young gentleman was on deck, moving briskly about and talking gaily with anybody who would encourage him. He was soon aware, and he was pleased to be aware, that he was evidently an object of some interest to an elderly gentleman with silver hair and to a fair young girl, as sweet as honeysuckle. Why he should be, he could not divine; but to be conscious that he was, caused him a strange elation. Somehow or other, he ceased to feel lonely; it was plainly with kindly eyes that they regarded him and followed his movements; and, though some time might elapse before an opportunity would offer for making their acquaintance, he felt a sense of sympathetic companionship in their mere presence. And fortune favoured him beyond his hopes. That very day, at dinner, it fell to his lot to sit next to the elderly gentleman; and, although the grey-eyed damsel, as sweet as honeysuckle, sat on the other side of the silver-haired stranger, yet she dipped occasionally, with soft, low tones, into the desultory conversation; and she called the elderly gentleman "papa," so that the young man's soul danced with delight and his heart sang one continual strain: "Here, by God's grace, is the one maid for me." Now, in the course of conversation, it so happened that the elderly stranger, who described himself as a colonial merchant, returning to his own country, happened to mention the name of Winterville.

"That is my name," said the young man.

"Really!" exclaimed the elderly stranger. "I wonder if you can be related to the gentleman I mean; he has a charming villa on the Thames between Putney and Barnes, called, I think, Middlehouse."

"So has my father," rejoined the young man, with a rather rueful smile.

"Dear me!" exclaimed the elderly gentleman; and, turning to his daughter, he said,

"Laura, this is young Mr. Winterville, son of the Mr. Winterville of Middlehouse Villa, on the Thames."

The effect of this information upon Laura was singular: she bowed and smiled, and said, "Oh, indeed!" in the ordinary way, but somehow her voice seemed harsher than heretofore, and her manner seemed to have grown quite cold and stiff.

"It is only fair now," resumed the elderly gentleman, "that you should know all about us. My name is Paterson, and this is my youngest and only unmarried daughter."

Why Laura should have slightly flushed, with a sort of petulant displeasure, at her father's explicit statement, young Winterville could not conceive, but he could not help observing that she did flush.

"Your father," continued Mr. Paterson, "did some little legal business for me when I was in London. You were at college, I believe, at the time, and so we didn't meet. But he told us all about you and your prospects," he added with a knowing look, "and, altogether, his kindness and friendliness towards my daughter and myself I shall never forget."

"A kinder soul never breathed," rejoined young Winterville, his eyes filling with tears. "You would hardly believe that he and his only son could have quarrelled."

"Quarrelled!" exclaimed Mr. Paterson, aghast.

"Irremediably," replied young Winterville, as he rose to leave the table; adding, in a broken voice, "I will tell you all about it some day."

As the father and daughter sat together that evening, they agreed that the sight presented by young Winterville when he lay, in evident mental agony, upon the cabin sofa was fully explained; and such was Laura's sympathetic nature that the tears rolled slowly down her cheeks as she thought of it.

"I wonder what they quarrelled about, papa," she said, tearfully. She was not long left in doubt. In a day or two her father was able to give her the whole history.

"You recollect, my dear," he said, "what Mr. Winterville told us. Young Winterville, his only child, was first of all to be taken into partnership, was ultimately to succeed to the whole business, and was, in the meanwhile, to marry a young lady with a considerable fortune."

Here Laura shuffled slightly with her feet, and moved her head on one side after the fashion of those in whom is the spirit of discontent or dissent.

"But it appears," Mr. Paterson went on, "that he had reckoned without his host. He, like many excellent fathers, had not thought it necessary to seriously consult the person most interested; and the person most interested, though having a shrewd suspicion of what was in the wind, was naturally disinclined to precipitate matters, for fear of wounding a kind father's feelings sooner than was absolutely needful

and went on hoping against hope that Time, the great unraveller of all tangles, would set everything straight. But Time turned out to be a broken reed to lean upon. The day came when Mr. Winterville pointed to the comfortable bed he had been for so many years preparing for his son to lie upon, and requested the young gentleman to take possession of it; when, lo! and behold, it turned out that young Mr. Winterville couldn't bear a feather-bed, and could not sleep upon anything but a mattress. In other words, young Mr. Winterville had a perfect horror both of the law and of the young lady; nothing in the world would induce him to embrace the profession or propose to the lady. He would rather die first."

Here Mr. Paterson paused; and Laura, looking down at the buckles of her shoes, laughed a careless little laugh.

"It is no laughing matter," resumed Mr. Paterson, gravely; "Mr. Winterville, it seems, for all his kindness, is a very choleric man, and his son inherits that infirmity. So that they came to high words; and the father told the son either to reconsider his determination or to leave the house and shift for himself. I think that that was going a little too far; but, at the same time, I think that Mr. Winterville had good reason to be very much vexed. He was left a widower very soon after his marriage; and, instead of marrying another wife over his son's head, he has devoted his whole life to the son's interest and advancement. He set his heart upon having his son as a partner and upon his son's marriage with that particular young lady. She is Mr. Winterville's ward; and he had ascertained enough to convince him that there would be no obstacle, so far as she was concerned."

Laura hereupon giggled, and the giggle savoured of satire. "Well," Mr. Paterson went on, "as I have told you, Mr. Winterville offered his son the choice of two unpleasant alternatives—either to do as he was bidden, or to shift for himself. He chose the latter. This accounts for our having him as our fellow-passenger; he is on his way to our own colony, and even proposes to seek his fortune in our own city."

"Poor fellow!" said Laura, with a sigh. "Don't you think you could do anything for him, papa?"

"That remains to be seen," replied Mr. Paterson, drily; "meanwhile, I understand that he has but a few hundred pounds between himself and destitution. His confidence, however, is boundless; and what caused that little scene of which we were witnesses, though I did not let him know, of course, that we were, was that he had written a very proper letter to his father, begging that some compromise might be come to, and praying that, at any rate, a telegram, conveying forgiveness, might be sent at the last moment to cheer him on his voyage; and neither letter nor telegram arrived."

Hereupon the gentle Laura actually whimpered, saying, "His father was very kind to us, papa; we must do what we can to cheer the poor fellow up."

And the good ship Wellbeloved steamed merrily on its way. It was the 26th of April, a month of smiles and tears, when the Wellbeloved had steamed out of Eastport for a distant colony. It had started at ten o'clock in the morning. The news of its departure, together with a list of the passengers, had been forwarded to several quarters, and, among others, to that quarter of Lincoln's Inn where the offices of Mr. Winterville were situated. He had reached his offices about the same time at which the Wellbeloved had moved out of port; and he had been sitting for some four hours, in a state of nervous excitement, among the japanned tin boxes which cumbered rather than adorned his private room, but which, nevertheless, by their number and by the names painted in white upon lid or side, bore witness to the extent and respectability of his business. His were not the clients to give a lawyer much dirty work to do; they were the sort of clients who are always marrying or giving in marriage and requiring settlements to be drawn up, who are always making wills and bequeathing or inheriting property, who are always purchasing estates or buying up leases, and who have few disputes but such as are settled by the most decorous and expensive proceedings in Chancery. Hundreds of thousands of pounds passed through his hands in the course of a year; and it is generally believed that the passage of money through a lawyer's hands is not to be effected without some process whereby a percentage of it "sticks." Mr. Winterville, at any rate, had found it to be so; pounds, shillings, and pence, whether in the form of one pound one, or of thirteen and four pence, or of six and eight pence, or even of the ridiculously small sum of three and four pence, had stuck to his hands as if he had dipped them in treacle. And happy, thought the neighbours, was the only son of a man endowed with so convenient a stickiness. Yet that son's heroic contempt for the law and all its works would have found its most faithful echo in a once famous "notice to correspondents," which used, in the "good old days," to appear weekly in a celebrated sporting paper: "Legal questions are not answered by us under any circumstances, but are at once consigned to the waste-paper basket." Hence those tears; hence the dispute between father and son; hence the restlessness with which the father now sat in his room, gazing hopelessly around him at the evidences of his successful career, and reflecting mournfully that the labour of his life had been in all vain and that the son for whom he had worked and sacrificed himself had rejected both the profession to which the father had destined him and the marriage for which the father had so carefully paved the way. And yet Mr. Winterville wore an expectant, if not a hopeful, air: his eyes wandered constantly towards the door, as if he were waiting for somebody or something. And at last the somebody entered with the something. A clerk came into the room, handed Mr. Winterville a paper in silence and departed as suddenly as he had entered. Mr. Winterville hastily tore open the paper, which contained, on unquestionable authority, intelligence of the Wellbeloved's departure and a list of the passengers who had started on board of her. And in that list was the name of George Winterville. The paper fell from Mr. Winterville's hand, which he struck heavily upon the desk in front of him, and his face flushed angrily, as he muttered to himself—

"So he wouldn't trust me; he wouldn't even telegraph!"

Then the flush died away; a deadly paleness succeeded; and his eyes grew moist, as he sighed and murmured—

"I didn't think it of George; I knew he was passionate and obstinate, as I am; but I always thought he was a good, kind, loving lad at bottom."

He sat pondering for a while; and gradually his face grew harder and harder to look at, as if it were the outward and visible sign of an inward hardening of the heart. He rose up from his chair, walked to and fro with a heavy, determined tread, and jerked out from between his closed teeth:

"Forgive! Not if he went down on his knees. I'll wipe the remembrance of him out altogether. I'm not an old man—only forty-six. I'll begin life afresh. I'll marry again. I'll have another son; at least, it may so happen, and I may have one who will not despise my profession or defy me. He'll not do for poor Mary, though; she couldn't wait so long as that. We must see what can be done for her. What hurts me most is to think that the boy wouldn't trust me. The ungrateful scoundrel! I was prepared to come to almost any terms. Well, it's all over now. I'll not do anything in the

common way: make myself miserable all the rest of my days, and then leave him a shilling for a rope, and all the remainder of my money to a reformatory for refractory children. I'll punish him worse than that. Perhaps he'll live to see another son of mine, bearing his own name and standing in the comfortable shoes that were made for himself. I'll teach him to treat me with contempt as well as distrust. I told him to just telegraph 'Yes' or 'No'; and though I should have been hurt if he had telegraphed 'No,' I was ready to make a further concession. But he chose to go off in a huff. The consequences be on his own head. As for me, I'll not lose a minute."

And, true to his word, he put on his overcoat and sallied forth. It was one of those days in April when an overcoat, a wrapper for the throat, and an umbrella are both banes and blessings—the former during the half-hours when the sun is as warm as in July, and the latter during the alternate half-hours, when, what with rain and hail and bitter wind, the thermometer and the barometer must have hard work to keep up with the humours of the elements. Still the weather was rather in harmony with Mr. Winterville's state of mind. He had taken train to Putney; and as he walked along the road which leads from Putney to Barnes—common he could not help remarking, for all his mental perturbation, how that, notwithstanding the curious mixture of atmospheric influences, the trees were steadily progressing towards the appearance they are expected to wear in spring. Here and there the branches hung out their light-green signals of plentiful foliage to come; and here and there the gardens were gay with blossoms white and pink. And the thrushes were busy, flying from tree to tree and peering inquisitively beneath the blossoms. They appeared to be examining the chances of fruit for the coming season; and after each examination they would burst into a joyous song, as if to express their confidence that, though the hail might rattle spitefully among the branches, yet all would be well with the cherry, and the currant, and the plum, and whatsoever else is bright to look upon and juicy to taste. The scene, in fact, was such as the singer has described with French vivacity and in French verse—

Comme un critique sournois,
Avril des jardins s'approche,
Et se glisse en tapinois,
De la grêle plein sa poche.

Mais les grives n'ont pas peur,
Et m'ont donné l'assurance,
Que le fruit tient sous la fleur,
L'avenir sous l'espérance.

And, from time to time, the gloom cleared off from Mr. Winterville's face, and a light came into his eyes, as if he, too, felt a similar assurance. At last he stopped before a very small but a very neat little house, standing in the primmest and trimmest of gardens. He knocked at the door, and inquired of the tidy young maid-servant who answered his summons if Mrs. Ingle were at home. The reply was affirmative; and he was shown into a very pretty little room, where he had not long to wait before he received a pleasant greeting from a lady whose presence was as placid and benign as that of the silvery moon on a summer's night. And yet, withal, there lurked in her dark-blue eyes a something which seemed to bear witness that still waters run deep, and to promise an agreeable revelation to anyone who could succeed in sounding their depth. This lady was Mrs. Ingle, thirty-five years of age, a widow, without children, with a face, a figure, and, above all, a complexion which made all who gazed upon her feel a sudden sense of refreshment.

"This is a most unexpected pleasure, Mr. Winterville," she said, cordially. "You are generally too busy to make formal calls."

"I have come, Mrs. Ingle," he replied, with a grave air, "to ask for your co-operation."

"My co-operation!"

"Yes; your co-operation, if you will give it me. I have a plan for the success of which it is necessary that a lady should co-operate with me, and I could think of none whose co-operation I should desire more than yours."

"Dear me!" she exclaimed; and, as if the want of co-operation had suggested the question, asked, with apparent irrelevance, "How is your son?"

"I have no son," he replied, sternly.

"Good Heavens!" she cried, in unaffected consternation.

"Has anything happened to him?"

"If you will kindly listen to me," he replied, overcoming with an effort the emotion which his voice betrayed, "I will tell you the whole story in a few words. George has run away. He started this morning for the colonies, as I know on the best authority. He behaved shamefully both to me and to my ward, Mary Highfield, whom you are so fond of. He knew perfectly well how my heart was set upon his joining me in my business, and how her heart was set upon him; and, when I informed him that, in my opinion, the time had come when he should think of seriously buckling to at my office, as soon as he had taken his degree at the University, and should become formally engaged to Mary, he actually reviled my profession and declared that rather than marry Mary Highfield, against whom, however, he acknowledged that he had nothing worse to say than that she had no individuality, and that she was nothing but a pretty doll, he would hang himself at my garden gate. He asserted that he had done all he very well could to show her that he was indifferent to her; and that, if she had imbibed a contrary notion, it was principally my fault, and partly hers for being so easily led by the nose and for not exercising her own wits. It turned out that he had the queerest idea about professions in general, and especially about the law, which, when we had once lost our tempers, he abused unmercifully, quoting the Judge who was asked by an indignant suitor whether he did not sit upon the bench to administer justice, and who replied cynically, 'Oh, dear no; I sit here to administer the law.' He abused the Navy as a pack of arbitrary tyrants and helpless slaves; the Army as swaggering dress-pegs in time of peace and hired cut-throats in time of war; medical men as the undertaker's friends; clergymen as seekers after social position and after the loaves and fishes, on pretence of being ministers of the gospel; and lawyers as a sort of social scavengers. He vowed that commerce was the only pursuit worth following; that to commerce England owed her position among the nations; and that commerce, in such a country as ours, ought to be more fully represented than it ever has been, by the few cases of Lord Overstone and others, among the peerage. He ridiculed the idea of giving more honour to families whose founders came over as 'first murderers,' or something of that kind, with the Conqueror, and who probably never did anything else, than to families whose founders had helped to make England the treasury of the world. Many a rat, he said, could boast that his ancestors came over with the Conqueror in the very same ship. And he solemnly pledged his word that he would be prouder to be descended from a Cobden or a Bright or anybody who had helped to repeal the Corn Laws and promote Free Trade, themselves being connected with trade, than from Richard Cœur de Lion himself. In fact, my dear Madam, he raved like a madman; I also, I am afraid, raved like a madman; we quarrelled; I forbade

him the house; he determined to emigrate and seek his fortune in the colonies and in commerce; he took his passage by steamer from Eastport; he thence wrote me a very proper but somewhat stiff letter. I relented, and begged him at the last moment to send me word by telegraph whether he would postpone his departure and trust all to me; and the ungrateful scoundrel declined to trust me, but left England without even forwarding a syllable in reply. That is what hurt me most, Mrs. Ingle, that my boy refused to trust me."

Here Mr. Winterville completely gave way.

"It is very sad," said Mrs. Ingle, when he had partially recovered himself; "may I ask you what you propose to do?"

"Do!" exclaimed Mr. Winterville, fiercely; "I mean to wipe him clean out of my remembrance. Hitherto I had lived for him; now I will live for myself. I have a plan, but it needs co-operation. Will you co-operate?"

"But what can I do?"

"Dear Mrs. Ingle," replied Mr. Winterville, clearing his throat and drawing his chair close to her. "You are a widow and I am a widower. That should make us sympathetic. You are childless, and I," he added, not without emotion, "I, too, am childless. That should make us more sympathetic. My plan I can scarcely reveal to you in its entirety; but 'it is the first step that costs,' and that step I can and will at once unfold to you. I need not tell you that I have always admired you; you must be aware that everybody admires you. But I have done more; I have—have—put great restraint upon myself for the sake of that—that ungrateful boy. There is now no further need for this. Well, then, the first step in my plan is to—to—marry again. Will you, so far, co-operate?"

He had taken her hand, which she did not withdraw. She hung down her head; her cheeks turned scarlet; and for a little while she made no reply. She was a good, kind, gentle soul; her thoughts reverted to the discarded son, and her heart was full of compassion for him. Perhaps some whisper came to her from somewhere, saying, "Blessed are the peace-makers!" and enhancing the delight with which she thought how sweet it was to be loved once more, and how much sweeter it was to be wife than widow. She was recalled to herself by the question, repeated in an agitated voice,

"Will you—will you co-operate?"

"I will," she answered, looking suddenly up with a bright smile, and falling into the arms that were open to receive her.

"One thing," said Mr. Winterville, severely, when the usual demonstrations were over, "I have to request: don't let that fellow's name be ever mentioned between us."

She turned cold with horror; but she forced a smile, and answered, diplomatically, without any promise:

"Perhaps you'll think better of it."

"Never," he rejoined emphatically.

And so Middlehouse Villa, Putney, had a new mistress. And the years flew by after their fashion; one, two, three, four, and five. The sixth was not yet completed; but it was destined to be the most momentous of them all. Very early in that year Mr. Winterville had been much exercised in mind by the receipt of the following letter:—

"MUMBO CITY, Jumboland, Scrape Colony.
"My dear Father,—I can bear it no longer; especially as I expect to visit England before the end of the year, and am anxious to know how I shall be received by you. I feel sure you will be glad to learn that things have prospered with me beyond belief. I have a very flourishing business; I have the most charming wife that ever saw her reflection in the looking-glass; and I have the three dearest children that ever inherited their mother's eyes. One thing only has preyed upon my mind all these years: that I parted on bad terms with you. Oh! if you had only listened to my request, and had sent me a word or two of forgiveness and encouragement by telegraph, even at the last moment, you would have spared me some very bitter hours and the only pang my life has known. Pray write and say that Laura and I and the babes may expect a kind reception from grandpapa. If I haven't written to you before, it is because I feared that a harsh reply would render Laura unhappy; but now that we are coming to England, I can refrain no longer.

"Your most affectionate son,
"GEORGE WINTERVILLE."

In due time came an answer.

"MIDDLEHOUSE VILLA, Putney, London.
"Undutiful Boy,—I have wiped you as far as possible out of remembrance. I have another George Winterville, and he has two brothers, John and Charles; and one of them will, no doubt, take to the law. They have a sister, Louisa. For, three weeks after you ran away, I married again, and have ever since been as happy as the day is long, except when your image comes to disturb me. Mary, too, is happily married, and has a family. When I think that I should probably have been a miserable old bachelor, slaving for you and quarrelling with you to this day, if you had complied with my request, I am glad, very glad, that you did not telegraph to me from Eastport. What you mean by complaining that I did not telegraph to you I don't know. You can't have expected a second telegram. On the whole, things appear to have turned out in the best way they could for everybody—for you, though you don't deserve it, and for me and for Mary. I'm sure we ought to be much obliged to you; and so if you and your wife and your brats choose to call here, you can do so without fear, though I have warned you that I have another George Winterville in your place. I don't relent in the least; but, as I consider myself to some extent indebted to you for your undutifulness, I shall be ready to receive you and yours as acquaintances.
G. WINTERVILLE."

"Not very encouraging," said young Winterville to his wife, who shrugged her shoulders despairingly.

Great, therefore, was their astonishment when, upon their arrival in England and upon paying their earliest visit to Putney, Mr. Winterville, senior, fell upon his son's neck and, hugging him affectionately, exclaimed,

"My boy! my boy! my dear, good boy! I have done you gross injustice. Come into my study at once."

The pair entered the study; and the father, with nervous fingers, spread before his son a telegram, dated the very morning of the Wellbeloved's departure from Eastport, and couched in these terms: "If you will leave all to me, wait where you are till I come. Telegraph 'Yes' or 'No.'"

The son turned pale, and looked inquiringly at his father, who explained, breathlessly,

"It was never sent; the fellow kept it back for some inexplicable reason or other, and has only to-day returned it, out of compunction, I suppose. It arrived mysteriously at the office this morning."

"You don't know who the villain is?"

"No; if I did, I'd—"

"What?"

"Well, I really think, under the circumstances, considering how happily things have turned out, I'd propose that we should—present him with a very handsome testimonial. You are indebted to him for Laura, recollect."

Young Winterville burst out laughing.

"We will ask her opinion," he said.



ACHILLE'S TOILET.—SEE PAGE 601.

DRAWN BY F. BARNARD.



THE QUEEN OF THE FAIRIES.—SEE PAGE 598.

DRAWN BY A. J. JOHNSON.

THE QUEEN OF THE FAIRIES.

The drawing-room's hushing and all its glad faces
Expectant are waiting her coming to see;
The audience are settling well in their places;
It's time that her Majesty ready should be;
So make her white tiny frock sweet with red roses,
And let not a small golden tress go astray.
When the curtain rings up and, in rising, discloses
Our Queen, she should throw into shadow each fay.

You smallest of greatnesses, let us survey you,
With smiling awe, gaze on your ripple of curls;
Ah, pet of small beauties, who would not obey you,
You daintiest of Queenships, you rarest of girls!
Baby eyes in their blue gaze, how pure and how tender,
With light from the heaven they so lately have left!
Our homage of love to their bright joy we render
And pray of that light they be never bereft.

A moment—our Queenship, whom love has been schooling
To small pretty gestures of sway and command,
Will bound on the stage, her domain to be ruling,
And be, 'mid her small elves, despotic and grand;
To glow in a bright world of lime-light and spangles,
Of painted mossed lawns and of woodlands wild-rosed,
Of glades such as listened to Shakspeare's fays' wrangles,
And banks where Titania in moonlight reposed.

And does her small heart with dear baby hopes flutter,
Like real grown-up actors, to play well her part,
With dazzling effects, her sweet speeches to utter,
And capture some small kingly Oberon's heart?
And what with that starred magic wand will you do, dear?
Without it, we feel all your charm and your spell;
To make us for ever, glad subjects to you, dear,
Your laughs and your lisp'd words will do just as well.

Transformation scenes many await our small beauty,
Slid on by old Time as she trips o'er life's stage;
Ah, may she, as good as now, still do her duty,
As pure and as bright, through all acts on to age!
And, all through her every hour, may our treasure
Be glad some and dear as she is in this scene,
With but April tears, just to brighten her pleasure!
Now ring up the curtain and on with our Queen!

W. C. BENNETT.

DOROTHY'S FORTUNE.

WHAT BECAME OF IT, AND WHAT IT BECAME.

BY W. W. FENN.

CHAPTER I.

No one could ever pass the quiet, old-fashioned little parsonage-house of Morton-Hurley, a remote village on the western confines of Gloucestershire, without stopping to look at it a second time, such a picture of rural peace did it present. The quaint, untended garden ended in a perfect little wilderness of intermingling underwood and shrubs; and the moss-covered dwelling itself was surrounded by tall rooknest-dotted elms, through which glimpses were obtained of the antique grey church, with its porch buried in thickly-clustering ivy.

From the front of the house wound a little flower-bordered path, leading to a white-painted gate opening on the road; and, on the tranquil summer evening when this story opens, a sweet, gentle-faced girl, dressed in deep mourning, passed along the path to the gate, and looked down the road. She did not wait long before her expectant eyes lighted up in happy recognition, as a fine-looking young fellow came at a brisk pace up to the gate.

As they stood there for a moment, handlocked in hand, it would have been hardly possible to find a comelier pair of lovers, for lovers they had been for more than a year past. He was Guy Farrell, a young gentleman who had been residing in the neighbourhood some eighteen months past learning to farm, and had naturally come to be on intimate terms with the Rector of the parish. She was the Rector's daughter, Dorothy Chaplin, and equally naturally had readily listened to the tender words which fell from Guy's lips soon after they began to know each other.

But the prospects of an alliance had, up to the present time, seemed remote, inasmuch as the Rev. Hugh Chaplin, besides having evinced the greatest reluctance to part, in his wifeless old age, with his only child, would apparently have nothing to give her, whilst Guy was entirely dependent on a very small allowance from his father. So time had gone on, as it often has under similar circumstances, without any definite plans being arrived at, until, suddenly, the clergyman was seized by an illness which terminated fatally.

It was then found by his will that he had bequeathed all his worldly possessions to his daughter. These, to the surprise of everybody—for he had been a moody, uncommunicative man—consisted of a hundred shares valued at £20 a piece in the "Rippleton Grand Junction Waterworks Company." The concern was prosperous, and, the shares being at par, Dorothy had thus become an heiress to the tune of £2000.

When she took her lover's arm and strolled away with him from the garden gate, down the narrow, winding road on this particular evening, her father had been dead some six or eight weeks, and, pending the evacuation of the Rectory in favour of the new incumbent, Dorothy's old governess had come to her as a companion in her loneliness.

The lovers had seldom spoken of money before, but, now that Dorothy had control over £2000, it became the subject upon which their whole future seemed to depend. It was as if time had been annihilated, and as if the happy consummation of their hopes had suddenly come within reach. So Guy discussed with Dorothy what ought to be done with her little fortune.

"You see, dear love," he said, "that at the best the poor pittance my father can allow me and the interest of your £2000 will scarcely keep us going here in England, where no money can be made in farming without capital; but in a new country, where land is cheap yet fruitful, and where a man may hope by diligence and probity to make a stand, we should be rich with what we have. You would not mind going away with me?"

"To the end of the world, Guy, if you wished it," she answered, as, putting one hand upon his shoulder, she looked affectionately into his clear grey eyes.

"Well, it would be pretty nearly the end of it; for Queensland, which I am thinking of, is about as far off from where we are now walking as we could well get on this planet."

"Indeed, dear, I should not hesitate for a moment; I have no ties in England, now that dear father is gone; nothing to live for, Guy, but your love."

"Then you will let me take the money to do with as I please, will you?"

"Certainly; of what other use can it be to me?"

"Good; then listen to what I propose. I have been thinking over it, and I fancy I see my way. We must realise—

that is, sell these hundred shares. They give you but little over five per cent now—rather more than a hundred a year. Could I lay out the £2000 half as successfully as Will Marsham did his £1000, on the other side of the world, why, in a few years we should get more than thirty per cent for it."

"Ah! I don't understand much about per-centage and all that sort of business," she answered. "Only show me how I am to make the money over to you, and then do as you think best."

"Oh! you will only have to sign your name to a transfer, and I will go to London to-morrow and arrange it all. Then I will run down to my people and propound our plans to the governor. It's rather a strange coincidence, by-the-by, isn't it, that my own old home should be so near this place, Rippleton? Why, I can recollect the opening of these waterworks, and the making of the conduit for miles in the old neighbourhood. The water is brought all the way from Thornmere."

"You will not be away long, Guy, will you?" said Dorothy, with a little tone of protest in her voice.

"No, dearest; in less than a week I shall be back here again to you."

Then the happy pair, continuing their stroll, chatted upon matters nearest to their hearts, after the fashion common to such moments in life, until night fell, and they parted, as they had met, at the garden gate.

CHAPTER II.

"Don't sell for a day or two, my dear Sir, if you can help it. Rippleton Waterworks are going up hourly. Let me see; twenty pound shares, fully paid—yes, they are now at twenty-three; in a week's time they will be at twenty-six, probably."

Thus the stockbroker, Mr. Birtles, of Throgmorton-street, to young Farrell, when, two days later in London, the business had been discussed.

So Guy, taking the advice of Mr. Birtles, consented to wait, and took the train, an hour or two afterwards, to Baylesthorne, where his father lived, within five miles of the great manufacturing town of Rippleton.

His family approved of his plans, and congratulated him upon the good fortune which had so unexpectedly dawned upon his engagement with the Rector's daughter. Nor was he content with discussing his future with his parents merely, but, on the second day after his arrival, he must needs ride into Rippleton to talk it over with some of his old schoolfellows and friends in that populous town. One of these was the leading solicitor of the place, a certain Mr. Monk, who, contrary to Guy's experience with the other friends he had been talking to, pulled a very grave face the moment the Rippleton works were mentioned.

"Bless my heart, Guy!" cried Mr. Monk, suddenly rising from the paper-strewn table at which he was sitting in his private room; "you don't mean to say you did not sell, when you found they were at twenty-three?"

"Certainly not; and very lucky I didn't," answered the young man; "for they have gone up two more since. See here!" and he held out the *Times*, turned down at the money market article.

The lawyer glanced at it for a moment; threw the paper down contemptuously; looked at the door of the room, walked to it, and turned the key; and then, drawing a chair close alongside of Guy's, sat down.

"Now, as one of your father's oldest friends," he said, almost in a whisper, "pray let me advise you, my dear boy. Don't delay another moment; sell at once. I happen to know (no matter how), and in the strictest confidence I tell you, that a great change is impending. When what I know is known publicly the company's shares will probably go down to less than half their present value."

"But," remonstrated the young fellow, "they are going up now. How do you account for that?"

"I can't account for many things of this kind that happen in the City; but I can surmise a good deal."

"What do you surmise?"

"Simply that the market is being rigged, and that what I have just told you is known to others intimately concerned, who are forcing the shares up, that they may sell at a profit before the crash comes. Take my advice; don't delay another day."

But Guy did delay. He refused, in his inexperience of such matters, to believe in the possibility of such contingencies.

"At any rate," he said to himself, "I won't sell whilst the shares are rising; I will keep my eye upon them; and when there's a sign of their declining it will be time enough to follow Monk's advice."

Two days later, however, his watchful eye was startled by discovering in the morning paper that there was a sign of their decline; they had dropped five, and gone back to twenty-one.

"Ah, well," he said, deliberately to himself, "this does look as if Monk might be right. There may be a screw loose after all. Perhaps I had better write to Birtles and tell him to sell." With this he sat down in his father's study, where he had been reading the newspaper, and wrote a brief note accordingly. Then he carried it to the post-bag hanging in the hall and dropped it in.

Now, if our young friend had any grave fault it consisted of over-deliberation; it was not due to want of energy or enthusiasm, but from a placid, even sort of temperament, which, while it was extremely useful in many affairs of life, not unfrequently became the reverse, and promptitude of action was a thing unknown to him. Nor was he a procrastinator exactly, but he hated, as he put it, doing anything with a rush.

The following day a letter from Dorothy telling him that she was not well, took him back at once to his love and his farming at Morton Hurley.

He found that she had caught a chill, and was forbidden to leave her room, so that a day or two elapsed after his return before he was able to see her, and to tell her all he had been doing whilst away. When they at last met, and their happy greetings were over, of course Dorothy's fortune again became the leading topic touched on.

"I am expecting to hear from Birtles," Guy said; "he ought to have sent me his account, and the transfer of the shares for you to sign; I believe the money won't be paid over until this is done, though, upon my word, I don't know much about the manner in which this sort of business is transacted; still, I'll give him another day or two."

"Perhaps he has sent his letter to Baylesthorne?" suggested Dorothy.

"Why, yes, of course, how stupid of me! I dated my letter from there; he could not know I was coming on here immediately; I did not know it myself, but it is odd the Governor has not forwarded the letter, he knew what I was doing, and approved; I'll drop him a line."

The post, however, had left for that evening, and another four and twenty hours passed before Guy's letter to his father had even been started for its destination. Then Mr. Farrell, sen., happened to be away from home, and did not answer it at once, so that a matter of a week elapsed ere Guy heard from his father to the effect that no letter had reached Baylesthorne for him.

He was a little troubled at this; but, ignorant as he was

about Stock Exchange matters, he did not attribute great importance to the delay; and it was only when he received the following letter from Mr. Birtles in answer to one of inquiry which he wrote direct to that eminent financier, that the true state of affairs was revealed:—

"Throgmorton-street, E.C.,
July 10, 1859.

"Dear Sir,—

"I am in receipt of your favour of yesterday, and deeply regret to tell you that I never received your letter of the 1st inst., in which you say you directed me to sell shares.

"I have made every inquiry, and feel perfectly confident that it was never delivered at my office.

"This is the more to be regretted; since between this and then, Rippleton Waterworks have most unexpectedly fallen very low.

"It appears that the great brewers there, in sinking a deep well for their own purposes, have come upon an unlimited amount of water of the first quality, and that steps are already being taken to establish means for supplying the town and adjacent districts.

"The effect of this will, in all probability be, that in a week's time the shares will be unsaleable. I have therefore sold, upon my own responsibility, a hundred for you immediately on the receipt of your letter this morning at fourteen discount—i.e., each £20 share for £6. You may, at first, feel inclined to blame me perhaps for this, but you will scarcely do so when I tell you that within the last hour, since I sold, they have gone down two more, and in all likelihood before the day is out there will be no market for them whatever. I will get a transfer prepared immediately and forward it for signature; meanwhile, I am, dear Sir, your's obediently,

"ROBERT BIRTLES."

For many minutes after reading and re-reading this letter, Guy was unable to comprehend the full meaning of its contents. But, as the truth slowly opened upon him, he experienced the first great shock of trouble life had yet presented him with.

Dorothy was looking over his shoulder as he read, and was much slower in understanding the letter than Guy. But when at length, after a prolonged silence, she looked into her lover's face she read there, in characters unmistakable, that a great calamity had happened.

"What does it mean, Guy?" she said anxiously. "Why do you look so pale?"

"It means, darling," he answered, without looking at her, "that we are ruined, that your little fortune is lost, and that I am the cause."

"Impossible!" she cried. "There must be some mistake! At least, it can be through no fault of yours, whatever has happened; it must be this dreadful Mr. Birtles who is to blame, if what you say be true; but I cannot believe it; you don't understand these things; you don't understand the meaning of what he writes."

"Ah! I don't understand these things, that's quite certain; but I do understand what he writes," went on Guy, dropping into a chair, and burying his face in his hands.

"Oh! Guy! don't, don't be so cast down!" cried poor Dorothy. "Have not we still got each other?" And she sank on her knees by his side.

CHAPTER III.

To dwell on the immediate effects of this painful catastrophe and the wreck of the life hopes of this loving pair, would serve little purpose here. It was but one of the many similar blows that are being rained down by destiny all around us daily.

Guy could find no relief save in action, and the following morning he literally, for the first time in his life, rushed off to London and then back to Baylesthorne, with a view, poor fellow, of discovering the cause of the letter's miscarriage; "as though," as he afterwards said, "that could possibly do any good." Arrived at his father's house the deliberative element in his character in a measure reappeared, and in this instance was of the greatest service to him, as the future proved. Mr. Farrell, sen., dwelt in a small, old-fashioned house, standing in its own grounds. He had lately retired upon a pension from his official duties as manager of a bank at Rippleton, and, though living with his wife and several younger children in the quietest and most economical fashion, maintained, amongst other methodical habits, that common one, as we have seen, of having a post-bag hung in the hall all day. At five o'clock every evening this was carried by the gardener to the village post office at Baylesthorne, about a mile off. The postmistress kept the key, and the gardener fetched the bag back every morning after the arrival of the mail with the precision of clock-work. The investigation of these and kindred circumstances took Guy naturally to the village post office; this was at a baker's shop, kept by a very old woman named Prior, and her son, and to whom, of course, Guy had been well known for years. After briefly outlining his case, Guy went on,

"Now, Mrs. Prior, I don't want to get anybody into trouble, but I mean to trace this missing letter if it be possible. It was on the first of July that I put it into my father's bag, and this is the twelfth. He has not much correspondence, so perhaps you can remember taking it out."

No! she couldn't rightly remember any particular letter; her memory wasn't as good as it was, but she knew that if it came there it must have been put into the regular bag and dispatched by the cart as usual, and she rather resented the suspicion which, as she said, Master Guy seemed to be putting on her.

"No; I don't suspect you or anybody," he said; "but, for my own satisfaction, though it can do little good, I mean to get at the bottom of this terrible business, which has so utterly ruined my prospects. So now, Mrs. Prior, be kind enough to show me exactly what you do when my father's man hands you the bag—here it is."

He had brought it down himself this evening and gave it to her as he spoke. She was standing behind the little counter, which was covered with loaves, small bags of flour, an array of little jam tarts, lollypops in bottles, and other curious wares of that sort dealt in by similar rural establishments. Pushing some of these aside, so as to clear a space, she proceeded, under protest, to comply with Guy's request, and, selecting a key from a bunch she took from her pocket, opened the bag and turned out its contents. Some four or five letters fell out—these she gathered slowly up in her thick-knuckled rheumatic old hands, and in doing so some of them tumbled on to the floor on her side of the counter. "Ah, there now!" cried Guy, "that is how my letter may have got mislaid; you don't know how many you let fall: one may easily scatter out of your sight and be left, perhaps, under the counter for a month. Allow me just to come round and have a look;" and, suiting his action to his words, he passed to the other side of the counter, whilst the old woman was still fumbling with her handful of letters and protesting that such a thing never had happened or could happen.

Below the till and one or two other drawers the counter was hollow, and the space was partly filled up with piles of biscuit-tins, empty boxes, baskets, &c.; and, though the cavity was dark, Guy saw that one of the fallen letters had

lodged upon a projecting part of this storage. Again he exclaimed, and now rather angrily, as he picked up the missive,

"See here, you might have easily overlooked this if it had fallen between these boxes, instead of on them. What if that should have been the fate of my letter, and that it is there still! You must let me have a candle, Mrs. Prior, and I must turn out everything underneath this counter."

Attracted by this bit of commotion, young Prior, a sturdy, pale-faced man, in shirt-sleeves, apron, and white cap, came forward from the bakery to hear what was going on. It being briefly explained, he naturally took up his mother's cause, and at first seemed inclined to resist Guy's persistent determination to search; but, when threatened by the latter that the management of the office should be reported to headquarters, he sulkily acquiesced and began slowly removing the lumber.

"Give me a candle," said Guy. "I'll look underneath while you take out the boxes, Mr. Prior."

Being supplied with a farthing dip, and dropping on his knees, he kept a watchful eye upon all the dust and rubbish which turned up as each article was removed. For several minutes nothing came in view but bits of paper, straw, and the like; the place looked as if it had not been swept out for years. Nearly everything at length had been moved except a low, heavy box on which many of the baskets, &c., had been standing, and which was almost beneath the exact spot where the old woman emptied the letters on to the counter.

"Well, there isn't anything there, is there? and I hope you are satisfied now," said Prior, gruffly.

"No, I am not," answered Guy. "I must have this box out; there's a wide space behind it," and he tugged away at the article, as he spoke, until he had pulled it clear of the counter. Then he bent forward with the candle. His eye immediately fell upon something light; he picked it up, and lo! there was his letter to Mr. Birtles! all smeared and begrimed.

We need not record the expressions of indignation and anger and the threats with which Guy Farrell left the post-office. Nor is it worth while lingering over the state of dejection which succeeded after he had recounted to his father and mother what had happened. It gave him a strange feeling thus again to hold in his hand the missive, the non-delivery of which had been so fatal to him. But these people must be punished," he said, calmly, after a while, "for the sake of others. They must not hold that office a day longer—it is too atrocious to think of. The wretched old woman and her sulky brute of a son, they were always rude and churlish ever since I can remember them. I'll write to the Postmaster-General this moment."

Evening had fallen by this time; the three were sitting near the open French window giving upon the lawn. The gardener suddenly appeared at it, and, asking pardon, said, "Mr. Prior, from the post office, had just come round, begging to speak to Mr. Farrell or Mr. Guy. In a moment a second figure appeared—that of Prior himself. Then followed a long harangue, and a scene that was not without a rough pathos in it. This man, so sulky, rude, and churlish but an hour or two before, was on his knees, abject in his humility and almost eloquent in his appeal. He besought, entreated, and pleaded that the fault might be overlooked for the sake of his old mother; it would be their ruin.

"Well," said Guy, when Prior had finished, "God help you; you have ruined me, but that truly is no reason why I should ruin you—it would be but poor satisfaction. Have a care for the future. See to the post-bags yourself, and I will hold my tongue."

"I think you have done well, Guy," said his father, when they parted for the night. "It will be a lesson to Prior, I believe; and it is not our part to punish."

A few days later, and, without having settled any definite plans for the future, young Farrell returned to Morton-Hurley a broken-spirited man.

Twilight was stealing over the landscape, and as he came up to the dear, well-known garden-gate, and no gentle greeting met his ear, and no welcome light gleamed from the little library window of the parsonage, he fairly broke down, and, leaning against the gate, groaned aloud.

In a minute or two he felt his hands gently pulled down, and heard Dorothy's sweet voice bidding him take comfort.

"Guy, dear!" she said, "remember we are only where we were just before poor father died: we were full of hope then, why can we not be so now? Don't you know you used sometimes to say then, 'I will work my way out to Queensland, and join Will Marham; and it will be hard if my strong arms and willing heart cannot make a home for my little wife.' Of course they can, Guy. Go; and take the poor £600 that is left of my fortune, and do what you can. I shall go out as governess (as I always meant to do), and my dear old friend Miss Cranstoun will find me a situation, and give me a home in my holidays, and look after me; and we shall write constantly to each other, Guy, and all will come right at last. What matters it if even we have to wait ten years? We need never lose hope, for are we not all the world to each other?"

He had no words to answer her with, and could only press her hand, as his head dropped on her shoulder, whilst she soothed him as alone a loving, noble-hearted woman can.

Then, when he was a little calmer, she went on. "You know my father's successor begs me to remain here as long as it suits me; I need be in no hurry to move. Thus there is plenty of time; so come in with me, Guy, and we will settle exactly what should be done."

Before that evening's close these two young hearts, with the help of the older and more matter-of-fact woman, had faced the sad truth that they must, for the present, bid each other farewell, and meet the coming years alone, but yet not without hope. It was settled that Guy was to start for another hemisphere, and join Will Marham in Queensland. A year ago he had more than once proposed this in a half-joking way. He would arrange his business matters, therefore, and take passage for Australia forthwith. Dear old Miss Cranstoun assured him that Dorothy should be well taken care of; and before the lovers parted that night some hope had again filled their hearts.

Guy seemed suddenly endowed with the foresight of an experienced man. He first of all arranged matters with the farmer in whose house he had lived; then he turned all his available possessions into ready money, absolutely refusing to touch even a part of the £600, which, with due legal formalities, had by this time, been paid over to Dorothy. He then bought himself a serviceable outfit, including agricultural implements, and went down to Baylethorpe, to bid good-by to his family and old friends, not forgetting Mr. Monk. That gentleman evinced no small amount of admiration for the young fellow who was so full of hope and determination, and carefully abstained, like a true friend, from blaming him for not having listened to his first advice respecting the shares. At length, with a clear £50 in his pocket, which was all that his father, who had other boys and girls to provide for, could give him, our young colonist declared himself ready to start in the great race of life.

CHAPTER IV.

Guy Farrell sailed for the Antipodes, and Dorothy Chaplin found herself installed as governess in the home which Miss Cranstoun had no difficulty in finding for her.

Weary seemed the days to her, we may be sure, as they rolled slowly on; but, by degrees, buoyed up by the hope that all would be right in the end, she became tolerably contented and happy. Every letter received from Guy during his voyage out, also spoke of hope and contentment, and it was only after a year had elapsed that any tidings reached her calculated to inspire despondency. But then, alas! things began steadily to go wrong; his health failed, and, being without capital, he had nothing but his own manual toil to depend on for his daily bread. He was obliged to fall back for assistance upon his friend Marham; for months he was laid up under his roof, and, but for his care and watching, he would, in all probability, have succumbed to the fever which laid him low. Still, when at last he was able once more to put his shoulder to the wheel, he did not prosper. Nothing but ill luck beset him; where other men's ventures turned to gold, his failed, or only so far succeeded as to leave him but little better off than when he first arrived in the colony.

Marham assisted him again and again to the utmost of his power. The eternal want of capital balked his progress; and, in a word, without following in detail the many misfortunes which overtook him, Guy Farrell became, at the end of four or five years, thoroughly disheartened. Dorothy's affectionate, encouraging letters, and the small sums of money she insisted on sending him, and which had many a time spurred him to renewed exertions, began to lose their effect. Again he had a severe bout of illness; and he finally determined that there was nothing for it but to return to the old country, and endeavour to start afresh in some new line of life.

"At least," he said, "I shall be able to see her sometimes there; and, as this separation is leading to nothing, I cannot be worse off than I am now!"

Dorothy, too, came to the same conclusion; for the love existing between them had in nowise been chilled by the lapse of time; and, the deferred hope having made them both heart-sick, they looked forward eagerly to the day which should see them once more side by side, vain and hopeless yet though the meeting might be.

And so it came to pass that, within five years of the time, when he had lost sight of the English coast, he again saw it rise above the horizon, as he looked out with grateful eyes from on board a homeward-bound vessel steaming up the British Channel. Off Plymouth a pilot was taken on board. Guy was standing amidst a small knot of the steerage passengers, watching this man as he came up the ship's side from his boat, and observed that he was accompanied by a young fellow, whose look contrasted strangely with that of the seafaring functionary.

His dress and appearance was that of a dapper City clerk; and directly he set foot on deck he called out, with a voice and manner which reminded Guy of his short and disastrous experience of the Stock Exchange,

"Any one on board of the name of Farrell? Mr. Guy Farrell? Anybody by that name here?"

Guy was within arm's length of him; and, drawing himself up, said, quietly, and with some astonishment,

"Yes; my name is Farrell—Guy Farrell. What do you want with me?"

"Oh, indeed," answered the clerk. "Soon found, that's lucky. Are you really Mr. Farrell? I was told you'd be on board, and here you are! You are to come on shore in the pilot-boat. Yes, to be sure. Now I look at you again, I remember you—a good deal changed though. This letter is for you," and he handed one to Guy, who pounced on it with an eagerness which showed he at once recognised from whom it came.

In Dorothy's well-known hand he read these words:—

"Come on shore with the bearer of this. I am waiting for you, and have such good news."

Without a moment's delay, Guy gave a few hasty directions about his small kit and followed the young man down the ship's side to the pilot-boat just as she was pushing off.

"You appear to recognise me," were his first words as they sailed landward. "Pray who are you, and how do you come to know me?"

"At present," answered the young clerk, "I have the honour of being in the confidence of John Monk, Esquire, of Rippleton, solicitor, and I am his chief clerk. My name is Putteridge, and when I saw you last I was office boy only; but by diligence and attention to business—but there, it's not for me to blow my own trumpet. I last saw you more than five years ago in Mr. Monk's office."

"Is Mr. Monk, then, with Miss Chaplin now in Plymouth?"

"No, Sir. He did me the honour of intrusting the young lady to my charge. I brought her down two days ago. She would insist on coming. She was so very anxious to see you; and money being no object—he hesitated."

"Pray, go on," said Guy. "Pray explain this unlooked-for circumstance."

"Pardon me, no! I have said too much, perhaps, already. She particularly requested me to leave all explanations to her. She wanted to surprise you."

"Well, she has done that most thoroughly, already," answered Guy; but he little thought how much more there was in store for him.

Within half an hour he held Dorothy in his arms.

Divested of all incoherence and explanatory exclamations, this is what she had to tell.

"Mr. Monk, Guy," she said, "has been our good genius. It appears that dreadful old woman Mrs. Prior had another son who had been gold-digging for years in California. He returned just after his mother's death, two years ago. Then, the strange thing is that he died, too, within a very short time, so that the poor baker and post-master, as the next of kin, found himself the inheritor of all his Californian brother's wealth; and how much that is we don't even know at present—not the full extent of it, I mean."

"But what is that to us?" asked Guy.

"Why, just this—that it all belongs to me, or rather to you, for what's mine is yours."

"Impossible!"

"Not at all. There are yet more wonders in store for your dear old sunburnt ears to drink in," cried Dorothy, playfully patting her lover's cheek. "Listen. Your forbearance in overlooking the grave business of that mislaid letter seems to have sunk deep into Prior's heart, for when he found himself a rich man he began making inquiries about you, and as to what had been the real nature of the misfortune which had befallen you through the non-delivery of the letter. Being after a time referred to Mr. Monk, he told him exactly what had happened. Then," said Prior, "I mean to make good the loss the young lady sustained." "That will cost you £1400," said Mr. Monk, "and the interest on it perhaps a couple of hundred more." "All right," said Prior, "I shall do that," and then there he handed over a mass of bank-notes to Mr. Monk. Mr. Monk's account to me of this scene was really touching. The mixture, too, of contrition and regret for what had happened, with the off-hand manner in

which the man threw about his newly-gotten wealth, Mr. Monk said was most amusing. He didn't want any receipt or that sort of thing, he said; he only wanted to be sure Miss Chaplin got the money; and, finally, through Mr. Monk, I have got the money, so that my fortune after all, Guy, you see, is still intact.

"Very wonderful, and a great piece of good-luck," responded Farrell. "One must be thankful, indeed. At the same time, it only leaves us where we were five years ago."

"No, indeed it does not; for there is a greater surprise for you yet to come; only it is very sad, at the same time. What do you think? Within a week of Prior's paying over this money, he called again on Mr. Monk and asked whether he thought we should be married now. Of course, Mr. Monk said he could not tell; but he supposed that, if you could get something to do when you came back, we should; otherwise, it was doubtful. Whereupon Prior replied, 'Then, I'll make it certain. I have got no one belonging to me now, since poor old mother's gone—I've no one to leave my money to; so, if you'll be so kind, I should like to make my will and to make the young lady my heiress.' Well, of course, as Mr. Monk said, it was not his business to object; and he drew the will, as he called it, and within half an hour it was all duly signed and settled. 'Now, then,' said Prior, 'I am going to London to look about me a bit.' And will you believe it, dear Guy, the poor fellow started that evening by the mail train from Rippleton, and was killed in the terrible accident which happened to it within a mile or two of London, and of which of course you have heard nothing, for it only happened three weeks ago."

It signifies little to inquire what was the extent of Dorothy Chaplin's inheritance; but that it was all sufficient to bring about the dearest wish of her heart we may be sure, and the wonderful combination of events here narrated are always spoken of by the Rippleton community in the comprehensive words of "Dorothy's Fortune."

SEASONABLE CHEER.

This drawing of the kitchen of a baronial hall, with the captivating culinary Phyllis, irresistibly suggests how great a loss to Art was the death of Valentine Bromley. His sunny nature assuredly let sunshine into a shady place when he drew with felicitous touches the lissom handmaidens whose good looks are the best of books, adding, as they do, chapter and verse, with a *soufflé* of flirtation thrown in for seasoning, to the quaint surroundings of the broad fireplace, primitive mantelpiece, minutest of windows, holly and ham-decked rafters of this indispensable adjunct to a baronial hall a century ago. "No baron, esquire, or knight of the shire," we warrant, would have disdained to tread a measure with sweet Margery on Christmas Eve, when, in accordance with the time-honoured custom, the servants danced and held revel in the fine old hall. "Seasonable Cheer," in fine, could not possibly be presented in more acceptable guise.

WORD PUZZLES.

I.
Within a stately mansion I abide,
With like companion ever at my side;
At ball and banquet looking fiercely glum,
And, when the cheering shakes the rafters, dumb;
At youth and beauty gliding through the dance,
Quite unperturbed in soul, I coldly glance;
Nor cry, when savours to my nostrils come,
"Fe-fi-fo-fum! I must and will have some!"
Though groan the tables there, to me at least
The dinner is a Barmecidean feast.
Take off my head, and then I represent
A damsel's mind, on her first ball intent;
Or waiting anxiously the following day
For him to call, and wondering what he'll say.
An article indefinite detach
And then the whole will find in me his match.
Where else I could be paired I do not know,
Unless to Sacred Chronicles we go;
For one is mentioned there, of kingly powers,
Whose name and nature so accord with ours,
That if an ancestry we boast at all
Him our forefather we might safely call:
(One hears at times his name spelled out at lecture—
A technicality of architecture.)
Sole relic left, a letter of strange doom,
That, set in glory, lingers yet in gloom;
Now hard, now soft; at times to eyesight clear,
Yet unapparent to the keenest ear.
Full many a time, impervious to remorse,
The carter jerks me at his jaded horse,
That fears the oft-accompanied sting of whip,
So labours painfully a livelier skip.

II.
A knight of me is named in song.
Drop the first letter, I belong
By right to those who labour truly;
And, should it be withheld unduly,
Another letter from me spurning,
I feel myself with anger burning.
If this same case crop up at law,
And I myself by chance withdraw,
Then, heading a report, you'll see
Last fragment of poor little me;
Except one letter left behind,
Which shows whence blows a dreaded wind;
And when the pointer turns its way
All invalids shrink with dismay.

III.
To say I'm narrow, little clue will give,
Since great and small are merely relative.
You would be in me if a furious bull
In some deep-sunken lane should meet you full.
Of my first letter shorn, why then perforce
My last goes with it as a thing of course;
And in my lopped state you may plainly see
I stand for some peculiarity.
Another gone, my last one comes again,
And I a tough material put in train,
Which duly made will vessels keep from wreck,
Or fitly ornament a villain's neck.
One less—and up the Thames, on pleasure bent,
You pitch on me, perchance, our picnic tent;
Still further shorn—the reader's ready wit
By intuition will alight on it;
And at the last thin atom left of me
Will give a guess that suits me to a t.—J. L.



SEASONABLE CHEER.—SEE PAGE 599.

DRAWN BY THE LATE VALENTINE BROMLEY.



AFGHAN VILLAGE CHILDREN.—SEE PAGE 592.
FROM A SKETCH BY MR. W. SIMPSON, OUR SPECIAL ARTIST LATE IN AFGHANISTAN.

ACHILLE'S TOILET.

M. Dubois' establishment lies in one of the streets in the vicinity of the Rue Mouffetard, Paris, a locality which in many respects is nearly represented in London by Seven Dials. His accommodation is limited. He has, in fact, only one room, as well ventilated as anybody could wish. A few plates, a candlestick, a washing-tub, and an old box labelled *Fragile*, in a somewhat dilapidated condition, constitute his household goods. His æsthetic sense is not without objects to admire. A pot of flowers breaks, in form and colour, the monotony of his limited dresser, and his own uninstructed hand has sketched, with the sublime carelessness of genius, on the old egg-box a rude cartoon of, let us say, the Pope of Rome or Madame Dubois, of M. Gambetta or his own eldest son and heir.

The population of Paris is, perhaps, especially fond of pets. The pets themselves are mostly to be pitied; but every one of them is the occasion and cause of some special industry. M. Dubois, whom the artist represents to us in his working-day apparel, has taken upon him the care of dogs. He loves them as tenderly as Chaucer's Prioress Madame Eglantine her "smale houndes." He looks after their cleanliness and neatness of their person. He is, in fact, a *tondeur*.

It is the opinion of Buffon that the *barbet* or poodle is a beast of high intelligence and deep-seated affection; *mais*, he adds, (alas! that not hingshould be perfect from our mundane point of view) *mais la longueur de son poil l'expose à se croter affreusement en marchant par les rues*. In this imperfection, however, M. Dubois and other members of his guild rejoice. The more frightfully the dogs are befouled, the more earnestly does M. Dubois agree with Dr. Pangloss in his optimism. Like the priests of Siam, who are said to reserve to themselves the sole and exclusive right of improving the divine majesty of their countenance by cutting off their own eyebrows, the professional fraternity of M. Dubois lay claim to a mystic, immemorial privilege in the matter of shaving other folks' poodles.

Here is a dog under the hands of the



PORTRAIT OF YAKOUB KHAN, THE DEPOSED AMEER OF CABUL.—SEE PAGE 592.
FACSIMILE OF A NATIVE DRAWING FOUND IN THE PALACE AT CABUL.

dog's barber. Achille is quite at home. The barber is a burly fellow, with black bristly hair, which he has himself cropped *à la malcontent*; not, in human judgment, a man to invite respect or trust. Yet Achille looks up to him with both. In the breast of that animal these feelings are, we may infer from the cast of his countenance, mingled with ineffable delight at his own appearance. If ever there was a conceited poodle, Achille is that dog. Whether he is being dressed for dinner—not, indeed, in the ominous sense in which that phrase would have been understood at the time of Paris' last siege, during which dog was sold at 4*fr.* the pound, but as an honoured and welcomed guest—or whether he is about to take an airing in the Jardin des Tuileries, he evidently considers his coat will not discredit his company. As a young lady dressed for her first ball, calmly confident in the muslin honours thrust upon her, looks forward in pleasing anticipation of being the belle of the room, so Achille, supported by the steady consciousness of his own deserts, awaits without impatience a favourable verdict from every judicious observer. And all this is owing to the artistic skill of the *tondeur*.

Let us hope he has his reward in ready money, besides an approving conscience, and that he will not suffer such disappointment in this respect as once befell one of his own calling. It is an old story; but is there anything whereof it may be said, "See, this is new?" A dog was quietly following a gentleman over the Pont Neuf. "That is a very pretty dog," said a dog-shaver, "but he would be improved by a little clipping. If Monsieur would permit me—." "Certainly," said the gentleman. The artist with the sounding shears began his work. "You would like a fringe left about his ankles?" "If you please," said the gentleman. "And a delicate tuft on the top of his tail?" "By all means," said the gentleman. "And now," said the *tondeur*, having given the finishing touch with the painful care of a Michael Angelo or a Leonardo da Vinci, "now, that will be just five francs." "Doubtless," said the gentleman, "you are perfectly right; but—it is not my dog!" J. MEW.

A CHRISTMAS SAINT.

St. Nicholas' Day, Dec. 6, comes sufficiently near to Christmas to permit us to call him a Christmas Saint, even if his patronage of children did not extend so far into the Christmas week, that the Child-Bishop whom it was once the custom to elect on St. Nicholas' Day, maintained his office and authority up to Holy Innocents' Day, Dec. 28. And, when this custom was first suppressed by Henry VIII., in 1542, and, after a revival in Mary's reign, was finally abolished in the latter part of the reign of Queen Bess, it was but to give place to the institution of the Eton Montem, which was formerly held, not at Whitsuntide (as it was latterly, until its suppression in 1844), but at Christmas, when, a pathway having been cut through the snow from Eton to Salthill, the Captain and his followers walked in procession to the hill, where the chaplain read mock prayers (which Queen Charlotte vetoed) and then kicked his clerk down the hill! He might have said to him, as Launce said to Speed, "There! and St. Nicholas be thy speed!"

It was, too, on Holy Innocents' Day—also called Childermas Day—that the Boy-Bishop preached his sermon and took a prominent part in the Church services, the little St. Nicholas, as he was called, having on the previous day appeared in great state in the cathedral or church, wearing his cope and mitre, bearing his pastoral staff, singing complin, incensing the altar, giving his benediction to the kneeling crowd of worshippers, and receiving the submission of the cathedral dignitaries. At Childermas-tide, Dec. 27, the little St. Nicholas was at the height of his importance; and, on Childermas Day, in order to keep alive in their children's minds the Herodian Massacre of the Innocents, mothers were wont to whip their little ones; so that the day was regarded as an unlucky day, both for infants and adults; and, in many towns, muffled peals were rung upon the church bells. The (literally) childish custom of electing a Boy-Bishop dated from a remote period; for, when Edward I. was on his way to Scotland, a Boy-Bishop said vespers before him on St. Nicholas' Day. The boy was elected to the office by his brother choristers, and he and they were called "St. Nicholas and his clerks;" and they are spoken of under that name by Shakspeare, in the scene in the inn-yard at Rochester, in the first part of the play of King Henry IV. Their travesties of sacred services were repaid by such liberal gifts and plentiful dinners that the Christmas holidays must have been highly enjoyed by these mediæval youngsters, who had good cause to bless their patron saint, St. Nicholas. Costly velvet copes, golden mitres, and rich suits of pontificals were kept for the Boy-Bishop and his attendants in York Minster, St. Paul's Cathedral, and all the chief places of worship throughout the land; and if the Boy-Bishop died between Dec. 6 and Dec. 28 he was buried in episcopal robes, and with all the honours that would have been paid to a veritable Bishop. The tomb of one of these may be seen in Salisbury Cathedral. The Roman Sigillaria, or Feast of Infants, which brought their Saturnalia to a close, would seem to coincide with Holy Innocents' Day and Childermas-tide.

The legend that constituted St. Nicholas as the patron saint of little boys is anything but a pleasing or edifying story, and may be told briefly. He was born of a good family, in the year 309, at Patara, in Lycia; and, having embraced the Christian religion at an early age, even, as an infant, observing all fast-days by an almost entire abstinence from his natural nutriment (!), he was created Bishop of Myra by Constantine the Great. He was present at the Council of Nice, where he boxed the ears of Arius, who had annoyed him. He, probably, died Bishop of Myra, and holy oil flowed from his tomb, and other marvels were there shown for many centuries, until the year 1087, when the bones of the Saint were stolen and removed to Bari, in Southern Italy, where they were buried in St. Stephen's Church. Miracles followed, and pilgrimages were made; and St. Nicholas' Day is still observed at Bari as one of their chief festivals. An Asiatic parent sent his two sons to be educated at Athens, and ordered them to call at Myra on their way, in order that they might receive the blessing of the good St. Nicholas. Arriving late, they put up at the Inn, where the landlord murdered them, and, cutting up their bodies, salted the pieces, and laid them in a pickling-tub to be sold as pork. This wicked deed was revealed in a vision to St. Nicholas, who went to the landlord and taxed him with the crime, which the conscience-stricken man acknowledged. St. Nicholas then prayed that the mangled remains should be reunited, and that the youths should be restored to life. The miracle was accomplished, and the two youths stepped unhurt from the pickling-tub and embraced the feet of the holy man. Another version of the legend is that, in a time of great scarcity, a certain man killed three children, cut them up, salted their limbs, and served them up as pork to St. Nicholas and other guests; but that the Saint detected the nature of the horrible dish, and, throwing its contents into the pickling-tub, commanded the three children to step forth from it, alive and whole. This latter version of the legend would seem to have been adopted by the mediæval artists, who usually depicted St. Nicholas giving his episcopal benediction to three little boys standing naked in a tub—who, happily, seem to be there for sanitary, and not culinary purposes.

A large and wonderfully elaborated glass-picture of this incident will be familiar to many, as it forms a central portion of the west window of the nave of St. Nicholas Church, Great Yarmouth, the largest parish church in England. The stained glass is believed to be about three centuries old, and was brought from some church on the Continent. The saint is depicted in the most gorgeous episcopal robes, engaged in performing the miracle of the pickling-tub. In such a church as this—dedicated in the name of St. Nicholas, about the year 1100, by Bishop Herbert de Lozinga—it seems a pity that St. Nicholas should only appear as the patron saint of little boys, and not as the protector of sailors and seafaring men, who also claim him as their patron saint. This was in consequence of his having saved mariners who had invoked his aid from perishing in the waves. There are several stories to that effect, with Cilicia, the Holy Land, and other places, for the scenes of the various legends. Dr. Bowring has translated a Servian poem, in which 300 friars, on board two tempest-tossed vessels, are represented as crying, "Help, O God! and help, O holy Nicholas! Would that thou, where'er thou art, were with us!" Upon which the saint suddenly appeared to them, and "saved the whole three hundred friars," with their offerings, their golden wax, and snowy incense. It was told to me, beneath the figure of St. Nicholas, in Yarmouth church, that no less than 376 churches on the English coast were dedicated in his name. Other churches in towns on navigable rivers, such as Newcastle-on-Tyne and Worcester, might be added to the list; and I write these lines in a Rutland village, where the church is St. Nicholas, I having previously been intimately connected with a Huntingdonshire village where the church was also St. Nicholas. In both these cases he was, probably, taken as the patron saint of boys; as they are churches where it was not likely that sailors would come to make their votive offerings, or hang up their garments, as they did in the days of Horace.

That little St. Nicholas, the Boy-Bishop, with his young companions, must have had a rare time of it during Christmas,

any date between the years 1462 and 1586, when the sacred mysteries and dramas were performed, and the scenes of the Nativity, the Adoration of the Magi, and the Massacre of the Innocents, were represented with clever mechanical effects. The Star of the Magi was made to move by means of ropes and threads; and, in the Corporation books of Great Yarmouth, there are numerous entries of the expenses of hanging and scouring the star, leading the star, riving the star, making a new balk-line and a nine-thread line to lead the star, &c.

But schoolboys must not monopolise St. Nicholas, for he is considered as the patron-saint of maidens in France, Italy, Holland, and elsewhere; and, when the eve of his day came round, the girls in convents used to hang empty stockings at the door of the Abbess's room, and find the next morning that the good St. Nicholas had filled them with bonbons and other presents. This custom is still observed at Christmas-time, not only on this side the Atlantic, but also in America, a boot or shoe sometimes taking the place of the stocking for the reception of the Christmas gifts. Scribner's magazine for boys and girls is called "St. Nicholas," he being the patron-saint of New York, as well as of the great Russian Empire. Portionless but marriageable maidens were wont to invoke St. Nicholas, who was said to pursue the (to them) very agreeable custom of throwing through their bed-room windows, left purposely open, purses full of money to provide them with marriage portions. To this effect, there is a lengthy legend concerning a poor nobleman of Patara, whose three lovely daughters were dowered by the mysterious purses of the good St. Nicholas. Evidently, he was a most popular patron and protector, especially among young people, and one whose charities, kindness of heart, and liberality in bestowing gifts, were a great aid to the spending of a happy Christmas. CUTHBERT BEDE.

TRUE CHRISTMAS CHEER.

But once a year—but once a year,
The proverb says that Christmas comes;
And when it comes it brings good cheer,
With turkey, beef, mince-pies, and plums.
The scarlet-berried holly decks
The Cot, the Hall, the House of Prayer;
And many a pearly jewel flecks
The bough of mistletoe so rare.
The proverb bring us all good cheer,
When Christmas comes but once a year!

But, not alone good cheer for board,
Still less for revel and excess;
Though Plenty has our tables stored,
It will not bring true happiness,
While Want and Misery stalk the land,
And widows mourn and orphans pine.
With thankful heart and open hand,
Give what is lent and is not thine;
Oh, this will bring the best of cheer
When Christmas comes but once a year!

True Christmas cheer is warmth of heart,
And love of men for love of God;
To bear their pang, to feel their smart;
To tread the path that Christ has trod,
Good-will to men and Peace on earth!
This keynote of our Christmas song
Should bring us truest cheer and mirth,
And tune our lives the twelvemonth long.
This would ensure true Christmas cheer,
Not for one day, but all the year!

CUTHBERT BEDE.

The publishers of *The Atlantic Monthly* gave a breakfast at Boston, Massachusetts, on the 3rd inst., to commemorate the seventieth birthday of Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Messrs. Puttick and Simpson have sold the autograph MS. of Handel's opera "Amadigi," 73 pp. folio, for £35 10s., and that of Mozart's Quintet in D major, 39 pp., for 43 guineas. These were from the collection of the late Mr. F. Smee, of the Bank of England.

We have received the twelfth volume of the "M.C.C. Cricket Scores and Biographies." Although the work, in the words of the compiler, "is to be considered a collection of facts and dry statistics only," yet it is of the greatest value to cricketers, being a complete record of the games during 1871-2-3. The biographies are short, but contain everything of general interest connected with each player.

The new Holborn Townhall was opened on the 18th inst. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, on the part of the Corporation of London, Sir J. McGarel Hogg, Bart., M.P., chairman of the Metropolitan Board of Works, and Sir Andrew Lusk and Mr. Torrens, the members for Finsbury, took part in the ceremony. Mr. J. Orde Hull, chairman of the Holborn District Board of Works, presided. The key of the building, which was inclosed in an ornate, elaborately ornamented ebony casket, constructed by Mr. J. W. Benson, was presented to the Lord Mayor through Sir J. McGarel Hogg from the Board of Works, when the Chief Magistrate declared the edifice open as a public institution. The building is stately, well proportioned, and commanding. Built of red Farnham brick and Portland stone, in the Renaissance style, the architects, Messrs. Isaacs and Florence, have displayed excellent taste in the treatment of the details. A considerable number of decayed and uncemety buildings had been cleared away to secure a fitting site for the hall, which, adjoining Theobald's-road, stands well back from the thoroughfare, with abundant space and light in front. The cost of the site and erection of the building has been £50,000.

Reduction of agricultural rents have recently been made as follows:—Lord Carlingford, the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, has remitted 10 per cent upon the rents due at Michaelmas, and 5 per cent upon the rents for the preceding half-year, on his estates in the county. He has also announced his intention of giving his tenants in future the concurrent right of shooting on their several farms.—Lord Crewe has instructed the agents on his Cheshire and Staffordshire estates to allow tenant farmers from 15 to 25 per cent in cash on their Christmas rents, according to their circumstances. His Lordship expresses a hope that the pecuniary assistance will strengthen and encourage his tenants to combat their undoubtedly great difficulties. The feeling between Lord Crewe and his tenantry is one of the greatest cordiality.—The Earl of Rosslyn has agreed to a reduction of 10 per cent on the rental of the tenants on his estate in Kife.—Mr. Charles Morrison, of Basildon House, near Reading, has announced to his tenants that in consequence of the recent bad seasons for agriculture in England he will remit at the rent audit in January (inclusive of that deducted at Michaelmas) 50 per cent of their rents on the year.—A most liberal allowance has been made by Lord Northwick to his agricultural tenants in Worcestershire. He returned 25 per cent in cash and artificial manures in the last half-year's rent; and at the same time intimated his intention to continue the same allowance up to Lady-Day, 1882, by which time he trusts the present depression will have passed away.

POLITICAL.

The guiding mind of the adroit debater who yet leads the Conservative Party palpably influenced the utterances of the Chancellor of the Exchequer at Leeds on Saturday, and it may be that the confident tone in which both Sir Stafford Northcote and Mr. E. Stanhope spoke was intended to influence the voting at the Sheffield election on Monday. Mr. Gladstone's two slips in Midlothian—his putting the Income-Tax at sixpence instead of fivepence, and his mistaking Scotland for "the land of the leal," yielded the Chancellor of the Exchequer opportunities for indulging in the somewhat lumbering attempts at badinage which pass with him for humour. But Sir Stafford's protracted defence of the Budgets of the Government, and his endeavour to show that really, after all, the natural expenditure of the present Ministry was not much more than that of Mr. Gladstone's, amounted only to a prolix exemplification of the truth of the French adage, *Qui s'excuse, s'accuse!* Turning to Mr. Bright's Rochdale speech, Sir Stafford Northcote lamented that the right hon. gentleman should have gone uncommonly near advocating a Republic in this country. He maintained that the views of the Government were still supported by the majority of the nation; defended the Ministerial action in Afghanistan, and looked forward to a satisfactory issue from existing embarrassments; whilst the close of both Sir Stafford's speeches had the usual Ministerial ring, and affirmed that the "honour and welfare of the country" were best looked after by the present Government. Mr. Bourke likewise spoke in the same strain at the luncheon in the Townhall, and at the large meeting in the Drill-hall. But it was reserved to Mr. Stanhope, throwing completely on one side the mantle of conciliatory politeness he usually adopts when addressing the front Opposition bench, to develop a sprightliness of attack and a fertility of anecdote worthy the leader, who, he predicted, would again be triumphant at the general election.

In Mr. Bright's forcible speech at Rochdale on the 18th inst., when the right hon. gentleman welcomed Mr. Potter home from the United States, there was a return of his old fire and vigour. It was clear that whilst he regretted his inability to accept the President's invitation to the White House, whilst he exalted the American Republic at the expense of European monarchies and empires, and still hoped that America would in time adopt Free Trade, Mr. Bright spoke from the deepest conviction. It was the "Tribune of the People" speaking again with his pristine earnestness, and lashing every institution of the land with which he disagrees. Many must disagree with his sweeping denunciation of the Ministry, and the strong language with which he assailed every establishment to which he has been antagonistic throughout his career; but it is impossible to deny the power and sincerity of the right hon. gentleman's latest speech.

At Christmastime it would be fruitless to touch on the many other addresses that have been delivered by lesser stars; and it will be sufficient to add that the opposing views have been ably supported by Sir William Hart Dyke, Mr. Leatham, and others.

The Sheffield election, the polling for which took place on Monday last, resulted in the return of Mr. Waddy. The numbers were—For Waddy (Liberal), 14,062; Wortley (Conservative), 13,584: majority for Waddy, 478.

Captain Bedford Pim, R.N., M.P., has read a paper on the proposed Panama Canal at a meeting of the Society of Arts. He proposes an alternative route to that from Greytown. From Pim's Bay, on the Atlantic, forty miles from Greytown, he would commence by cutting a canal down to the Rama river, a distance of about ten miles. The Rama river carries deep water about twenty miles into the interior, and the remaining seventy miles to the Lake of Nicaragua would traverse land offering no particular difficulty. From San Miguelito, on the Lake Nicaragua, the canal would run to the northern shores of Lake Managua, and thence to Port Realejo, on the Pacific, the total distance being 290 miles.

In response to an appeal to the Duchess of Marlborough, the Lord Mayor of London has expressed his willingness to receive sums in the aid of the distress in Ireland, and to help the fund by his own contribution.—Mr. Ripley, M.P., has contributed £200 to the Duchess of Marlborough's fund for the relief of the distress in Ireland. The hon. gentleman urges that a committee for collecting subscriptions should be formed in Bradford, where there is a large Irish population.—At a public meeting in Liverpool last week it was resolved to start a subscription for the aid of the famine-stricken in the West of Ireland. The Duchess of Marlborough's letter was referred to in graceful terms.—The Clothworkers' Company have sent one hundred guineas to the fund.—The Duke of Hamilton writes to say that the distress among the poorer classes in the western districts of Donegal is already intense, and, unless some relief outside local sources is afforded, the consequence may be deplorable.

The Lady Mayoress distributed on the 18th inst. the prizes and rewards won by the children of the Asylum for Deaf and Dumb, in the Old Kent-road. Her Ladyship attended in state, and was accompanied by Mr. Sheriff Woolton in his official robes, Mr. Under-Sheriff Crawford, and several ladies and gentlemen. There are already 300 children provided for, some in the building in the Old Kent-road and the remainder in the branch establishment at Margate. In addition to these, thirty will be elected on the second Monday in January. An idea of the amount of success which had attended the teaching given at the asylum may be formed from the fact that many of the children had gone up for examination to the Arts and Science Department of South Kensington, and some of them have been awarded prizes and certificates. The Head Master highly praised the children under his charge. Specimens of the children's writing, drawing, and needlework were on view; and the scholars gave a series of pantomimic illustrations.

The form which it has been decided the English memorial to the late Princess Alice shall take is the endowment of the Hospital and School for Nurses in Darmstadt which her late Royal Highness founded, and in which, up to the time of her lamented death, she took a great and practical interest. Indeed, the loss of the support which the late Grand Duchess gave to this institution would have seriously imperilled its efficiency, but for the aid which the trustees of the English Memorial Fund are enabled to permanently guarantee to it. The surplus, after the endowment of the hospital, will be given towards the maintenance of other kindred institutions in which the Princess was personally interested. The following inscription will be placed on the Hospital in Darmstadt:—"This Hospital and School for Nurses, founded by her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess of Hesse, Princess Alice of Great Britain and Ireland, has been endowed forever as a memorial of her Royal Highness by those in Great Britain and Ireland, India, and the Colonies who revered her pure and noble character, and her life of loving self-sacrifice. Si monumentum requiris, circumspecte. Obiit December 14, 1878."

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SEE PAGE 606.



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ZULU WAR OFFICERS.

An Illustration was given last week of the ceremony performed by the Queen at Windsor Castle, in personally decorating with the insignia of her Order of the Bath a number of military officers and others who have recently served with distinction in the Afghan and Zulu Wars. The portraits of many of those gentlemen have appeared in our Journal, with short memoirs of their careers, during the past twelvemonth. We now present those of Sir Edward Strickland, K.C.B., Commissary-General; Major-General Newdigate, C.B.; Lieutenant-Colonel J. North Crealock, C.B.; Lieutenant-Colonel Drury Lowe, C.B.; Mr. E. W. H. Webb, C.B., Commissary; and Surgeon-Major Cuffe, C.B., all of whom have distinguished themselves in South Africa.

Sir Edward Strickland was born in 1821, third son of the late Gerard Edward Strickland, of the ancient knightly family, Strickland of Sizergh Castle, Westmorland, one of whom bore the banner of St. George at the battle of Agincourt. After being educated at Stonyhurst College, he entered, in 1840, the Commissariat branch of the service, and thus served in Canada, Australia and Tasmania, New Zealand, Malta, and the Ionian Islands. He was sent to Turkey on special service in 1853, at the outbreak of the war with Russia, and was senior Commissariat officer with the division of the army in the Crimea which was commanded by the Duke of Cambridge. He had charge also of this department of the British force in occupation of Greece from 1855 to March, 1857, when he was appointed one of the joint Commission ordered by the three protecting Powers to examine the financial state of Greece. In 1867, he was nominated a C.B. for distinguished services in the field during the New Zealand war of three years previous. His successful efforts to overcome the huge difficulties of transport and supply of provisions to the army in Zululand excited general admiration. Sir Edward has been twice married; and his present wife, daughter of General Tatton Brown Grieve, C.B., of Orde House, Northumberland, accompanied him through the recent wars in South Africa.

Major-General Edward Newdigate was one of the four general officers who were sent out to assist Lord Chelmsford, with the large reinforcements of troops dispatched from England immediately after the news of the disaster of Isandhlwana. An account of his previous services, which were highly meritorious, appeared at that time, since which there has been frequent occasion to notice his command of one division of the army in Zululand, that which was usually accompanied by the head-quarters of the Commander-in-Chief, and his conduct of most important operations in the late war.

Lieutenant-Colonel John North Crealock, of the 95th Regiment, entered the Army in 1854, and served in the Indian Mutiny campaign of 1858, at the siege and capture of Kotah, the battle of Kota ke Seral, where he was wounded, the general action resulting in the capture of Gwalior, the siege and capture of Pourie, and surprise of the enemy's camp at Kunrye; for which he received the medal with clasps, and was twice mentioned in despatches. He served as Military Secretary to Lord Chelmsford, without a day's intermission, from beginning to end of the Zulu War.

Lieutenant-Colonel Drury Lowe, of the 17th Lancers, one of the regiments sent out in March to reinforce the army in Zululand, has gained renown as a most active and skilful leader of light cavalry, and the usefulness of his services has been repeatedly acknowledged.

Surgeon-Major Charles MacDonogh Cuffe, who entered the medical department of the Army in 1863, serving in India and Arabia, was appointed Assistant-Surgeon to the 11th Hussars, and served with his regiment above seven years. He was promoted to the rank of Surgeon-Major in April, 1876, and proceeded to the Cape of Good Hope in October, 1877, arriving in that command just at the commencement of hostilities against the Galekas. He served as principal medical officer of the Transkeian Field Force under Colonel Glyn, C.B., throughout the campaign, and at its conclusion received the thanks of the Director-General of the Army Medical Department. He then proceeded to the Transvaal, and joined the force then being organised under Brigadier-General Wood, V.C. He acted as principal medical officer of the flying column throughout the Zulu campaign, and was favourably mentioned in despatches. He again received the thanks of the Director-General. We are informed that Surgeon-Major Cuffe was educated at the Catholic University of Ireland, during the rectorship of the Rev. Dr. Newman (now Cardinal Newman), and received his professional education at the Catholic University Medical School, and at the Richmond Hospital, Dublin. As a student he won several prizes in literature, science, and medicine. His brother, Surgeon G. M. Cuffe, also serves her Majesty in the Naval Medical Service.

Commissary E. W. H. Webb received his first commission in October, 1858, and served in the Military Train, with the rank of Captain, but was promoted in February, 1870, to his present rank; and his exertions during the late war to forward the supplies from Natal, and to organise the dépôts of provisions for the different advancing columns, have earned high official commendation.

The state apartments of Windsor Castle are open to the public.

At a recent meeting of the Court of Common Council the City Lands Committee submitted a model design for marking the boundary of the City's jurisdiction on the site of Temple Bar. The committee had selected a model which would not only indicate the site on which Temple Bar stood, but, while marking the City's boundary, it would provide a rest for foot-passengers crossing the street from the Law Courts. The court unanimously adopted the committee's report.

The authorities of the Post Office are, it is stated in the *Times*, about to issue a new penny postage-stamp, which has been chosen after a good deal of consideration. It is a great improvement upon the present stamp in form, the colour is lighter and more cheerful than the brick-dust red with which letter-writers are familiar, while the Queen's bust shows much more clearly. The gum seems also to be of better quality; and the new stamp will thus, we hope, be pleasanter to deal with than that now in use. An additional advantage for revenue purposes is that, being printed in a fugitive colour, the new stamp cannot be cleaned. Messrs. De La Rue are the contractors.

The Prince of Wales has signified his willingness to inaugurate the new Literary and Mechanics' Institute Building which has been erected at Windsor at a cost of about £5000, as a memorial to the late Prince Consort. The Literary and Mechanics' Institute was established nearly half a century ago, and the late Prince Consort during his lifetime took great interest in its welfare. The foundation-stone of the new building was laid at the commencement of the year by Prince Christian. Mrs. Richardson-Gardner, the wife of the sitting member, has promised a lifesize statue of the Prince Consort, to be placed in a niche in the front of the building, the cost to be about £200. The date of the inauguration, according to present arrangements, will be Jan. 10.

THEATRES.

Mr. Hollingshead appears to have made a judicious managerial movement for the employment of the surplus members of his large company attached to the Gaiety. He has rented for the nonce the Olympic, and provided them with a new drama, called "Such a Good Man," in three acts, and written for the occasion by Messrs. Walter Besant and James Rice. The result proved not to be so favourable as might have been expected, the new comedy being rather of a grave complexion, and holiday audiences preferring for the most part fun to serious reflection. We may hope, however, that they may yet be converted to a more rational view of the purpose of dramatic entertainment. The story is very simple, and almost conveyed in the title. Sir Jacob Escombe, Bart. (Mr. J. Maclean), is a rich contractor, who bears a good character and labours to pass as a philanthropist, nevertheless is fraudulent as a trustee and dishonest as a man of business. The exposure of his hypocrisy is the grand incident. Another is an episode in which John Gower (Mr. J. D. Beveridge), his managing clerk, attempts his rescue by imparting to him the secret of an invention which by saving labour would redeem his affairs, on condition that he would permit him to marry his niece, Rose Escombe (Miss Fanny Josephs). But, when he finds that this arrangement would render the poor girl miserable, he destroys the machine. A way, however, is found out of this difficulty, and a happy conclusion is secured. No doubt the drama, which is carefully written, will improve on acquaintance.

The managers of the St. James's have reasonably enough sought to obtain a prestige for their new home by representing there a new play by the Laureate. Mr. Tennyson has gone to Boccaccio for a theme, "The Falcon," which he has dramatised in one act. Poetical readers will remember that this was one of the subjects chosen by Barry Cornwall for his "Dramatic Scenes," with which he commenced his poetical career. The incident is one aesthetically pathetic, and commends itself to the literary taste. The poor Count Federigo, sacrificing his favourite falcon to serve as a repast for the Lady Giovanna, whom he loves, touches at once the heart. No wonder that she surrenders at discretion. We draw a contrast between Barry Cornwall's dramatic scene and the Laureate's play. The play is well mounted and well acted. Marcus Stone has contrived a splendid Italian cottage for the scene. Mrs. Kendal, also, as the Lady is a superb and beautiful figure; and Mr. Kendal as the poor Count a stately and picturesque image. The verses fall pleasantly on the ear. Mr. Tennyson was not in the house to witness his triumph; but his son, Mr. Hallam Tennyson, undertook to communicate the good tidings to his father.

CHRISTMAS NOVELTIES.

Pantomimes have advantages not possessed by any other form of dramatic composition. They have the best season of the year at their command, and the almost exclusive use of the stage. The season of Christmas is, in fact, the dramatic season of the great houses. The entire population, including children and a large number of adults, who never visit theatres at any other time, is then in the habit of thronging them for six or more weeks, and paying at the doors a ready sum of money, yielding a profit equal to the rent of the house for the whole year. The very frivolity of the amusement commends it to the masses and the inexperienced. For the sake of this exceptional entertainment, every sort of regular drama is postponed, and when attempted necessarily finds a scanty audience. Had the education of the popular mind been the object in view, advantage of the festive season would have been taken for the performance of lofty tragedy or elegant comedy, that the multitude of the people might have the opportunity of acquainting themselves with the noblest examples of the dramatic art. Either of these may follow the pantomime season, but audiences have then to be forced into the houses by means more or less ingenious, but fatal to the prosperity of elaborate works. In their place modern managements, almost exclusively commercial, prefer the lighter pieces supplied by playwrights who belong to what is denominated the Ring. On this subject there is an excellent article in "The Theatre" of this month. The writer proves satisfactorily that the first pieces of new and unknown authors have generally been the most successful; and concludes his argument with saying that "the pressing requirement of the theatre is a manager who has the courage to avail himself of the wealth of dramatic genius which lies outside the Ring." This saying deserves to be pondered well by those who have the true interests of the stage and the theatrical public at heart.

Meanwhile, under the needy and ignorant government to which the stage of our day has been condemned, even the favoured pantomime has suffered. No new themes have been worked for many a year, and we frequently quit the theatre feeling that pantomime itself is in a moribund condition. We begin with

DRURY-LANE.

The pantomime is written by the Brothers Grinn, and treats the familiar "Blue Beard" in a genial and festive style, by means of a company full of the spirit of fun, including the talented Vokes Family, and graced with the music of Ferdinand Wallerstein. There is a ballet of one hundred coryphées. The pantomime opens with a scene in Albania, the village of Komonixon-gateo, suffering under the failure of the vintage. Ibrahim is accordingly anxious to urge on the marriage of his daughter Fatima with Bluebeard (Mr. Fred Vokes); but Fatima is in love with Selim, a sailor (Miss Jessie Vokes). Bluebeard is connected with the Demon of the Desert, and causes Selim's shipwreck. The rest of the incidents follows the nursery legend, which is extended through eleven scenes, elaborately painted by Messrs. Henry Emden, Cuthbert, Bruce Smith, F. Fenton, and William Telbin. The spectacle, it is said, has been provided at a fabulous expense.

COVENT GARDEN.

"Sindbad the Sailor" is the theme and title of the pantomime. It is written by Frank Green, and illustrated with new and magnificent scenery by Julian Hicks. The ballets are arranged by M. Dewinne and the music is provided by W. C. Levey. Scene I. shows us the Web of Witchery, with Aphrophora, the Fairy Fiend (Miss Annie Stuart), amongst the Spiders she has subdued. Wishing to check all adventurous spirits and to stay the march of progress, she objects to Sindbad undertaking his voyages of discovery; and, hearing that he is about to start upon one of his expeditions from Bagdad, departs in her fairy chariot in order to prevent him. Her plotting is, however, overheard by Cupid (Miss Marie Williams), who is reclining among the roses, and who flies on the "wings of love" to foil her plans. Next, we see the port of Bagdad, with the good ship Battledore preparing for her voyage. The Captain, Mustapha Jenks (Mr. G. H. Macdermott), has a daughter, Zelia (Miss Annie Rose), who, being enamoured of Sindbad (Miss Fanny Leslie), resolves to follow him on his adventures. In this scene we are also introduced to Ali Ben-Bolt, otherwise Buccaneering Billy (Mr. Herbert Campbell) a pirate of tender years. Rahat Lakoum, the Captain's wife (Mr. Arthur Williams), several midshipmen, represented by Mesdames Emily Duncan,

Julia Vokins, D. Ernstone, Nora Davis, Grace Otway, Clara Fisher, &c., and a wonderful monkey, played by Master C. Lauri, all of whom accompany Sindbad on his voyage, which the Fairy Fiend arrives too late to prevent. The following scene represents the Battledore very much at sea; through the combination of Thunder, Lightning, Wind, and Rain, who are summoned to the aid of the Fairy, the good ship sinks on the oyster reef, "twenty thousand leagues under the sea." Here Cupid turns up to the rescue with a diving-bell. We are also treated to a chorus by real natives, and a ballet of Sea Nymphs, headed by Mdlle. Colombier. We then proceed to the cuddy on board H.M.S. Bib, on which the whole party have taken refuge after a wonderful exhibition of cookery on the part of Rahat, and Billy Cupid guides the vessel. The Big Roc's Nest, where the Old Man of the Sea (Miss Jenny Rogers), faithful to the story, nearly brings Sindbad to grief, follows, and the Captain, Billy, and Rahat indulge in horse exercise on some highly trained ponies from Jerusalem. The gigantic Roc ultimately flies off with Sindbad and the Captain to the Diamond Valley, wherein takes place a grand procession of the court of the King and Queen of the Valley of Diamonds. The head of the modern Memnon on the borders of the scientific frontier forms the oracle consulted by Sindbad and his friends. The irrepressible Fairy Fiend endeavours once more to accomplish their destruction, but is prevented by Cupid, who wafts everybody through the clouds to the grand transformation of a Christmas Card.

GAIETY.

Here we have not, to speak literally, a pantomime, but a spectacle of a very elaborate kind in four acts and twelve tableaux, written by Mr. Henry J. Byron, and arranged by Mr. John Hollingshead. Gulliver's Travels constitute the theme and supply the story of the eccentric drama, that of sea-voyages and shipwrecks, leading to the discovery of Lilliput and the Brobdingnagian kingdom, together with a curious island called the Island of Comic Song. Here we may expect most of the comic business, including the military evolutions of an infant army, the antics of a giant baby and nurse, the eccentricities of comic singers and dancers, a flying ballet, and other entertainments. In many of these Gulliver himself is an actor. The scenery has much to recommend it, being painted by the eminent artists Mr. Beverly, Messrs. Grieve and Son, Mr. F. Lloyds, Mr. Perkins, and Mr. Hann. The music, by Herr Meyer Lutz, and the ballets, arranged by Mr. D'Auban, are both sure to be satisfactory. Among the characters are to be found Misses Farren, Vaughan, Gilchrist, Louis, and Wadman; Messrs. Terry, Royce, Elton, Squires, De Voy, Leclercq, and Butler; and a company of children, six playing the principal parts and one hundred acting as supernumeraries, under the direction of Mr. Exley. The piece is produced under the direction of Mr. Soutar.

ALHAMBRA.

A grand new Christmas Musical Fairy Spectacle, in four acts and seventeen tableaux, entitled "Rothomago; or, the Magic Watch," founded on the celebrated French *Féerie*, and rearranged for the English stage by H. B. Farnie, was produced on Monday, with new and original music expressly composed for this presentation by Messrs. E. Solomon, P. Bucalossi, Gaston Serpette, and G. Jacobi. The gorgeous scenery by Mr. A. Calcott, Mr. F. Lloyd, and assistants; the magnificent costumes from designs by M. Wilhelm, executed by Miss Fisher, M. and Madame Alias, and Mrs. May; the elaborate properties and mechanical effects by Mr. J. Buckley; the stage effects and machinery by Mr. F. Sloman; gas by Mr. White; lime-light and transparencies by M. Kerr. There were three grand ballets, invented and arranged by M. Bertrand, with original music by M. G. Jacobi. The action is so extensive, that it can be only indicated, not fully expressed. It is in four acts. The first shows how King Impecunioso XIX. ordered a marriage banquet, and how the Royal tradesmen declined to furnish the same. The Court Sorcerer, Rothomago, is applied to in vain. The Court visit the Sorcerer's Den, who is considerably astonished at the success of his incantation. The act ends with the exhibition of the Kingdom of the Fleeting Hours, the Halls of Time, and the Seven Ages of Man Illustrated. The second act introduces us to the Village School of Seidlitzpowderburg, where the Hours begin their work by watching over Forget-me-Not, and the King, accompanied by his daughter and Sylph, seek to grind the razors and mend the umbrellas of the district. The scholars arrive for compulsory education. We have next the Outskirts of the Village, the Vineyards in Vintage Time, and a grand Vintage Ballet, terminating with an apotheosis tableau, "The Triumph of Bacchus." The third act shows us the Forest of Virgin Snow in Freezeland, and the Gorge of Lost Footsteps. The travellers lose their way, and eventually leave the inhospitable North in a balloon, exhibiting the Transit of the Aerial Ship, and conducting us to the Excursion Office, Cairo. Here the balloon descends, and the travellers take tickets to visit the Nile. The fourth scene presents the Pyramids and a Dream of Old Egypt. The caravan halts under the shade of Memnon, and Dodo is lulled to forgetfulness by the Hours, now Maidens of the Nile. "Memnon" forms the subject of a grand Egyptian ballet, including the Sacred Ibis (Mdlle. Pertoldi), Ismael, an Assyrian Prince (Miss Matthews); Cleopatra, the "Serpent of Old Nile" (Miss Denevers); and the Priestesses of the Ibis. The last act shows Old Rothomago working a windmill, and finding he can't make it go; how Angosturas' magic wand turns the French landscape into a Chinese river city, and all the peasants into orthodox Mongolians. The drama finishes with the Floating City of the Flowery Land, the picture of the Mandarin's Mansion, the apparition of the Fairy Fan, and the Palace of Porcelain. On this occasion there is an international congress of all the ceramic notabilities of the world, under the name of the "Grand Ballet Céramique; or, International Congress of all the Porcelains" (in which Mdlle. Rozelli, from Paris, Turin, Milan, and Bordeaux, made her first appearance in England), with which this splendid drama concludes.

NATIONAL STANDARD THEATRE.

The Pantomime is entitled "Blue Beard Re-Wived." The barber Mustapha is introduced rejoicing over the fact of his youngest daughter having a suitor in the person of the great Blue Beard. Fatima is, however, in love with Selim, the barber's apprentice. Her sister Anne looks forward to getting rid of Fatima, and marrying Selim herself. The great Blue Beard arrives and gives notice he will come in state at midday on the morrow to bear away his bride. The scene changes to a grand set view of the country between Blue Beard's castle and Mustapha's house. The stage is crossed by several bridges, which soon become alive with the multitudes in gorgeous attire, forming the state retinue of the great Bashaw. Fatima is married and borne to her new home. Sister Anne having accompanied her sister, they range through Blue Beard's castle, and Blue Beard gives them the keys of all the rooms, only forbidding them, under pain of death, to visit the blue chamber; but on the departure of the master of the house, the females' curiosity is excited and they determine to just have a peep inside the prohibited door. The party arrive at the blue chamber, a magnificent vaulted chamber approached by golden doors: here the audience are introduced to the mysteries of

Blue Beard's Wives, who are seen making merry over the idea of a new victim being added to their numbers. Fatima, Ketcho, and Anne arrive, and, in horror of the sights they see, drop the key of the room and fly from it in terror. A grand spectacular ballet by one hundred ladies, most elaborately costumed with brilliantly jewelled trophies, succeeds. Principal dancer, Mdle. Sidonie. The spectacle terminates with a brilliant effect called the Shower of Prisms. On Blue Beard's return he insists on the key being found, and then orders his wife to prepare for death. On the castle ramparts, Fatima asks Anne to look from the turrets and signal to Selim, who rushes in, attended by an army of warriors, and defeats Blue Beard's object by killing him and taking Fatima to himself. The Fairy arrives, and in the grand Transformation Scene, "A Coral Reef," she changes the characters, as usual.

ROYAL PARK THEATRE.

"Beauty and the Beast" forms the subject for the pantomime. The poor Prince is transformed into a beast until some maiden shall, by confessing herself in love with the monster, break the spell. Sir Temple Bar, travelling with his friends in search of fortune, sees a rose-bush near him, and without more ado plucks a flower for his daughter Beauty. The Forest Monster, appearing suddenly, tells the party their lives are forfeited unless the lady (on whose account his rose-bush has been despoiled) shall willingly consent to take her father's place and come to be eaten. This the party agree to, and are let go free. The two elder sisters are jubilant at the prospect of getting rid of Beauty, who bids farewell to her home, and arrives at the Enchanted Palace of the Beast, illuminated by countless lights and tenanted by a concourse of Fair White Bears. Here the Beast shows his guest the wonders of the place, and confesses his love for her. She asks permission to return, and, passing through the Palace Gardens, arrives at home, to the astonishment of her father and sisters. She has promised to return, but by her relations' importunities she over-stays the time allowed, and the Beast appears and claims her. She declares she loves him; and immediately the Fairy Queen transforms the Beast back into his princely form, and the characters to the usual pantomime troupe in the grand Transformation Scene, which represents Beauty's Palace of Enchantment.

SURREY.

The pantomime is entitled "Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp; or, Harlequin the Wicked Wizard and the Good Genii of the Enchanted Cave," written by John McArdle. Orlock the Evil Genii is informed that the only means of his obtaining the coveted Magic Lamp is through the aid of a boy named Aladdin (Miss Topsy Venn). Aladdin, who will play truant and defies the School Board, determines to woo and wed a Princess, and, furious at finding a rival, challenges him to fight, but is interrupted by the arrival of the Princess on her road to the bath. Aladdin follows the Princess, who daily comes for her usual wash and brush up. Luminosa, the Good Genii, guards the Magic Lamp, which Aladdin secures. In due course is introduced the Grand Fairy Ballet, invented and arranged by Paul Valentine, introducing Miss Annie Elliott and Miss Topsy Elliott, supported by one hundred charming coryphées. Aladdin, returning to the widow's cottage, narrates his adventures, and, both being hungry, the widow suggests the sale of the lamp at the broker's, and while trying to clean it, are both alarmed by the sudden appearance of Luminosa, who speedily provides a sumptuous banquet, and a bowl of precious gems, which Aladdin at once determines to send by his mother to his lovely Princess. Grand Eastern ballet follows. The Transformation Scene is entitled "Love and Hope, or the Dream of Alciphron," of which the argument is that, once upon a time, Alciphron, an Arab Prince, being overcome by sleep in a thickly-tangled wood, dreamed of the delights which should attend the journey of his true betrothed Zorilda. He dreamed that she has embarked upon the "Ship of the Desert," and the camel bells are heard ringing. The scene is immediately transformed by a blinding sand-storm, through which Zorilda has reached the banks of the sacred Nile. Her vessel upon the rushing tide is tossed about, and sinks; when in the sky appears the presage of Hope, the Southern Cross, at which happy augury the scene changes to a delightful oasis. After many days' search up the sinuous course of the Nile, Alciphron finds his beloved near the source of that wondrous river in a bower of blissful beauty, enhanced by nature's choicest gifts. This gorgeous scene is designed and painted by Mr. Charles Brooke.

PAVILION.

The pantomime at this popular theatre is written by Messrs. W. Green and T. Lindsay Clay, and is entitled "The Children in the Wood; or, Harlequin Cock Robin, the Wicked 'Uncle,' and the Little 'Pledges' that were taken in." The action opens in the Vultures' Glen, where we find the Demon Vulture in Congress with the various birds of prey. He asks their assistance on behalf the wicked Sparrow to slay Cock Robin, and to bring death or misfortune upon the heads of Arthur and Alice, "the Babes," under the guardianship of their Uncle, the Baron Hardup. Scene II. introduces the audience to the Golden Groves of Arcadia, a very beautiful set, with the children, in dream, are brought to witness the dazzling splendours of Fairyland; and after a Grand Ballet of Birds, we reach Threadbare Hall, the home of the wicked Uncle, where we find the old Nurse bewailing the state of affairs. The rest of the action follows the Legend. Two Ruffians, Beetle-browed Bill and Boozey Benjamin, undertake to carry off and murder the children. The scene is an Autumnal Wood, occupying the full depth of the stage, where the two scoundrels quarrel and the thrilling (comic) combat results in the discomfiture of the more bloodthirsty ruffian. The little ones find themselves lost in the wood, and sink to sleep beneath the spreading boughs, which descend and obscure them from sight, after Robins have covered the Babes with leaves. After some comic incidents, a grand spectacle and diversified entertainment is introduced; but the festivities are stopped by the appearance of the Demon Vulture, and we pass on to the Baron's Brown Study. The Nurse is swallowed by a huge Ogre, down whose throat the Ruffians pursue her. Subsequently at a critical moment the Good Fairy enters, overthrows the Demon power, spreads harmony around, and takes us to the Grand Transformation Scene entitled "Davy Jones's Locker: A Nightmare," invented and painted by Mr. R. M. Hyde.

NEW ALBION THEATRE, POPLAR.

The pantomime this year is called "Jack and Jill; or Harlequin Sing a Song of Sixpence, the Demon Blackbird and the Good Fairies of the Gold and Silver Ferns." The story opens with the meeting of Mother Hubbard, Dame Trot, Mother Redcap, and the Witch of Endow. Clammero, with her partner in mischief, Blackbird, appear, and council the Witches to use their magic influence against Jack. The Good Fairy Goldenfern appears, and reminds them of the Pocket-full of Rye, promises that the Talisman shall be Jack's, and that Jack's fortune shall be made. We have next the home of the Two Young Lovers, watched over and cared for by the Maid Forlorn. While assisting Jill to carry Water from the Well, the horrid Demon Blackbird appears, and the lovers are compelled to wander. Jack receives a telegram from Fairy-land. The

Queen's Laundry is a scene full of life and fun, and changes to the Palace of Gold and Silver Ferns. Jack is hailed King, and hastens to prove his gratitude to Jill, and makes her his Queen. The Transformation Scene is emblematic of the Four Elements—Earth, Air, Fire, and Water.

SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE.

The pantomime is entitled "Aladdin, the Wonderful Lamp, and the Forty Thieves." A congress is convened. Europe, Asia, Africa, and America appear, each attended by a costly suite, mounted on the respective quadrupeds of its nation—the bull, the camel, the elephant, and buffalo. In the forest haunt the Forty Thieves make their grand entry loaded with plunder. Aladdin, having acquired wealth by aid of the lamp, resolves to espouse the Princess; and we are speedily conducted to Aladdin's enchanted palace and witness a magnificent bridal procession, a gigantic stud of horses, ponies, elephants, camels, and zebras, and a grand Chinese ballet by eighty ladies, principal danseuses, Mdles. Elise Hudson and Sophie Giroffi.

ALEXANDRA PALACE.

"Little Jack Horner" is the hero chosen for the Pantomime this season; but with this has been interwoven the favourite old nursery legends of Little Goody Two-Shoes (who becomes the sweetheart of Jack) and the Three Bears. The story has been written by Mr. Frank Stainforth, with new music by Mr. William Corri, and produced by Mr. T. H. Friend, Mr. Thos. Rogers painting entirely new scenery, including a most gorgeous Transformation Scene. The second scene takes us to the Peerless Palace of the Passing Hours, where, after a brilliant procession of the Hours, Days, Weeks, Months, and Seasons, Mr. John Lauri's Seaweed Ballet takes place, Mdle. Luna being the principal danseuse and Miss Lilly Davis dancing a *pas de deux* with her. In Scene III., Domino Castle, the home of Mother Shipton (Mr. Field), the action of the pantomime commences. Ignorance persuades Tommy Stout and Jemmy Green, two schoolboys who attend the school kept by Goody Two-Shoes, to attack Mother Shipton's dog. The Dame defends him, and in turn is protected from the mob by Jack. Mother Shipton teaches Jack his letters by calling forth a procession of representatives of the old familiar "A was an Archer" series, in fact a most animated alphabet. Ignorance teaches Goody to go and search in a certain Hawthorn Glade for hidden gold, in order that he may get her into his power. Mother Shipton, to foil his wicked attempts, gives Jack the sword of sharpness, the shoes of his swiftness, and the scarf of darkness, and sends him on his way after Goody to the Magic Wood. Here Ignorance, who has become a very Black Bear of the Zulu species, accompanied by a White and Brown companion from Russia and Afghanistan, is waiting to pounce upon the innocent Goody. In Scene VII., we come to the Forest Home of the Three Bears, and, while they are out for a stroll, Goody drops in, tastes their porridge, sits in their chairs, and, after trying the others, goes to sleep in the bed of the little bear. Jack rushes in, and, after a terrific struggle, conquers the bears. We are then shown the ramparts of a castle. Jack arrives with an army, and, after a stirring speech, a paraphrase of the famous "Once more unto the breach," and "St. Crispin's Day" speeches in Henry V., the walls are stormed, King Robin's giants are killed, flames burst forth, the bastions are destroyed, and Jack is seen triumphant on the summit of the tower with Goody in his arms. We are then transported to the Home of Queen Mab, the gorgeous Transformation Scene, which introduces cataracts of prismatic waters, with nymphs reclining beneath the moonlight fernery, in the Jewelled Haunt of the Fairy Queen. The Comic Scenes are designed and arranged by Mr. W. H. Harvey (for many years the celebrated Drury Lane Clown), Mr. John Lauri (under whose care the ballets are produced) is the Harlequin. Miss Lilly Davis the Columbine, and Mr. Bekenham the Pantaloon.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

The pantomime at the Crystal Palace is on the favourite subject, "Jack the Giant Killer," its full title being "Jack the Giant Killer; or, Harlequin Fairy Spiteful and Good King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table." It has been written by Mr. R. Soutar; the ballets and pantomimic actions are by Mr. John D'Auban; the costumes are by M. and Madame Alias; the music is by Her Meyer Lutz; and the whole is produced under the direction of Mr. John Hollinghead, of the Gaiety Theatre. The story is based on the rival loves of Jack (Miss Lizzie Coote) and the Giant Gorgibuster (Mr. Clifford) for the fair Sybil (Miss Emily Muir). Gorgibuster, aided by the Winds and other elements, incited by his mother, the Fairy Spiteful (Miss Rose Roberts), carries off Sybil; but Jack, encouraged by Good King Arthur and assisted by the Fairy Progress (Miss Lily Lee), pursues the Giant to his home, and, after various and romantic adventures, slays Gorgibuster and releases the maiden, all ending happily with the Grand Transformation Scene, entitled "Our Empire in the East," specially painted by Mr. Charles Brew, from designs by Mr. Alfred Thompson. The Harlequinade which follows is sustained by Clown (Mr. W. Orkins), Pantaloon (Mr. Bishop), Harlequin (Mr. W. Warde), and Columbine (Miss Rose Edmonds). Other attractions of the Christmas holidays will be the wonderful performances of Dr. Carver, the great American marksman; a daily variety entertainment by Mr. and Mrs. H. White, the Edmonds family, and the De Castro acrobats; Professor Bailey's "Punch and Judy;" the great annual fancy fair and bazaar, and the innumerable objects of interest which fill the Crystal Palace.

The London markets, and many of the provincial markets, have been supplied during the last week or two with a quantity of fine fresh salmon from Nova Scotia. These fish have been selling at prices considerably below the ordinary market rates for salmon ruling at this time of the year, when our sole source of supply is from the fisheries at the mouth of the Rhine. They are, however, fully equal to the best Dutch salmon, and the fact that the market price is gradually rising, is a proof that they are held in high repute. The salmon in question were caught last summer in the Bai des Chaleurs, an arm of the sea between Nova Scotia and Lower Canada, and immediately after capture were placed in refrigerating chambers, in which they have been kept ever since, except during the short period necessary to place them on board the vessels which brought them over. This vessel was itself specially fitted for the purpose with refrigerators, and, a large stock of ice being taken on board, the fish have been maintained intact in a state of congelation, and in perfect condition for the table. After being gradually thawed, they present all the appearance of fresh-run salmon taken in the height of the season in any English or Scotch river, being bright, plump, and fat, and the flesh red and flaky. The New York and other American markets have long been supplied with salmon from the Bai des Chaleurs, and the idea of sending them over to England was due mainly, if not entirely, to Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne, who visited the bay in the summer, and were struck with the enormous quantities of salmon caught there. The practical embodiment of the idea has resulted in placing an additional and nutritious article of food on the English markets at Christmas-time, when such an addition is peculiarly welcome.

MUSIC.

The usual Christmas performance of "The Messiah" by the Sacred Harmonic Society took place yesterday (Friday) week this being the forty-eighth annual recurrence thereof. The solo singers were Miss Anna Williams, Madame Enrieque, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Mr. Lewis Thomas. Sir M. Costa conducted, as usual.

The same oratorio was announced for performance by the Royal Albert Hall Choral Society on Boxing Day, conducted by Mr. Barnby.

The orchestral concert of the students of the Royal Academy of Music took place at St. James's Hall on Saturday evening, and included some very clever performances on the pianoforte by Mrs. Grantley and Misses E. Goldsboro' and J. Percival, and on the violin by Mr. Sutton. Misses Ambler and M. McKenzie and Mr. Brereton made a highly favourable impression in vocal solos; good specimens of the students' progress in composition having been offered in an overture by C. T. Speer and a scena by A. G. Thomas. An effective programme was closed by a good performance of Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise," the vocal solos in which were sung by Misses A. Aylward and C. Wyld, and Mr. B. Davies. Mr. W. Macfarren conducted.

The Christmas concert of the London Academy of Music took place last week at St. James's Hall, and went off extremely well.

As briefly intimated last week, the Royal Albert Hall Amateur Orchestral Society opened its eighth season there on Saturday evening with a concert in aid of the funds of the German Hospital, Dalston. The occasion included an effective performance of Goldmark's characteristic symphony, "A Rustic Wedding," by the band, in which the Duke of Edinburgh occupied his customary place as one of the first violins. Madame Norman-Néruda and Mr. Charles Hallé, respectively, as solo violinist and pianist, contributed to the attractions of the evening, as did Mdles. Minnie Hawk and Breidenstein, and Herr Henschel in vocal solos. Mr. George Mount conducted as hitherto, and Sir J. Benedict assisted as accompanist. The next concert is to take place on March 6, in aid of the funds of the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen's-square.

The Monday Popular Concerts are suspended, as usual at this period. The programme of this week's concert comprised Schumann's first string quartet, and that by Haydn in D minor, from op. 76; Chopin's Ballade in G minor, for pianoforte, by Mdle. Janotha; and Beethoven's Romance in F, for violin, by Madame Norman-Néruda; besides vocal solos by Mr. F. King. The evening concerts will be resumed on Jan. 5, and the afternoon performances on the following Saturday.

Most of the London musical performances are, as usual at this period, suspended for a brief interval. The "London Ballad Concerts" will be resumed on Jan. 3, with an afternoon performance. On Jan. 5 (as already said) the Monday Popular Concerts will recommence. On Jan. 10 Mr. Carl Rosa will open his new season of performances of opera in English at Her Majesty's Theatre. The next concert of the Sacred Harmonic Society will take place on Jan. 16, when Rossini's "Moses in Egypt" will be performed. The series of Saturday afternoon concerts at the Crystal Palace will be continued on Jan. 31.

A committee has been formed for the purpose of presenting a testimonial to Mr. Henry Leslie, the form of which will be decided at a meeting to be specially convened for the purpose. This tribute has been well earned by the long and successful career pursued by Mr. Leslie in the cause of choral singing.

MUSICAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Christmas number of Messrs. Chappell's "Musical Magazine" is, as usual, devoted to dance music appropriate to the festive season. This year's issue again offers a varied collection of pieces, comprising some spirited quadrilles, a waltz, and a polka, by D'Albert; waltzes by Lamothe, Waldteufel, and Métra; a set of quadrilles by F. Godfrey; and a polka by A. W. Nicholson—altogether nine in number, a liberal return for the price of one shilling.

Messrs. Metzler and Co. have also issued their usual Christmas double number of the "Musical Bijou," the contents of which include "H.M.S. Pinafore Singing Quadrille," a series of sprightly dance movements, with a vocal part, founded on subjects from Mr. W. S. Gilbert's and Mr. Arthur Sullivan's popular comic opera. Other dance pieces, in different forms and styles by well-known contributors, make up a copious shilling's worth.

"Christmas Album," by P. Tschaikowsky (Neumeier and Co.), will prove a seasonable and welcome gift for young pianists. It consists of a series of twenty-four pieces, each with a distinctive title, and all highly characteristic and pleasing in style, while yet being so simple as to be within the powers of very juvenile players. The composer is the most prominent of living Russian musicians, and has distinguished himself by many successful works in the more important forms of composition. In the pieces now referred to he proves his power to interest by the simplest means.

Messrs. Boosey and Co.'s "Royal Song-Books" have several times been noticed by us in reference to their various issues of the songs of different nations—sacred and humorous songs, &c.—and we have now two valuable additions to the series in "The Songs of France," and a second volume of "The Songs of England." The first of these comprises sixty of the charming airs and romances of our Continental neighbours, with French and English text; the latter by Miss X. Hayes. The other volume contains a very large number of English melodies, including many of the most popular traditional ditties, songs, and ballads of the last three centuries—well edited, with new symphonies and accompaniments, by Mr. J. L. Hatton. These handsome and inexpensive books are well adapted for presents, having, moreover, a permanent musical value and interest.

The Children's Bach, The Children's Handel, The Children's Haydn, The Children's Mozart, The Children's Beethoven, The Children's Weber, The Children's Mendelssohn, The Children's Schumann. This series—valuable to juvenile pianists, and well suited for gift-books—is edited by Herr Pauer, and published by Messrs. Augener and Co. At a moderate cost, these volumes supply a copious library of classical music, suitable for young performers, and yet of such intrinsic value as to have interest for the most accomplished pianists. The greatest composers, past and present, have produced much beautiful music that can be interpreted with moderate executive powers, and Herr Pauer has very judiciously culled such portions from the works of the masters above specified; some pieces being originally composed for clavichord, harpsichord, or pianoforte, others being arrangements. Most of them are for one performer; several in each book being duets. The Editor has supplied copious indications of the best fingering for passages of any difficulty, and each volume contains an interesting memoir, and some a good portrait, of the respective composers. These books are eminently calculated for the cultivation of the students' executive skill and appreciative taste.

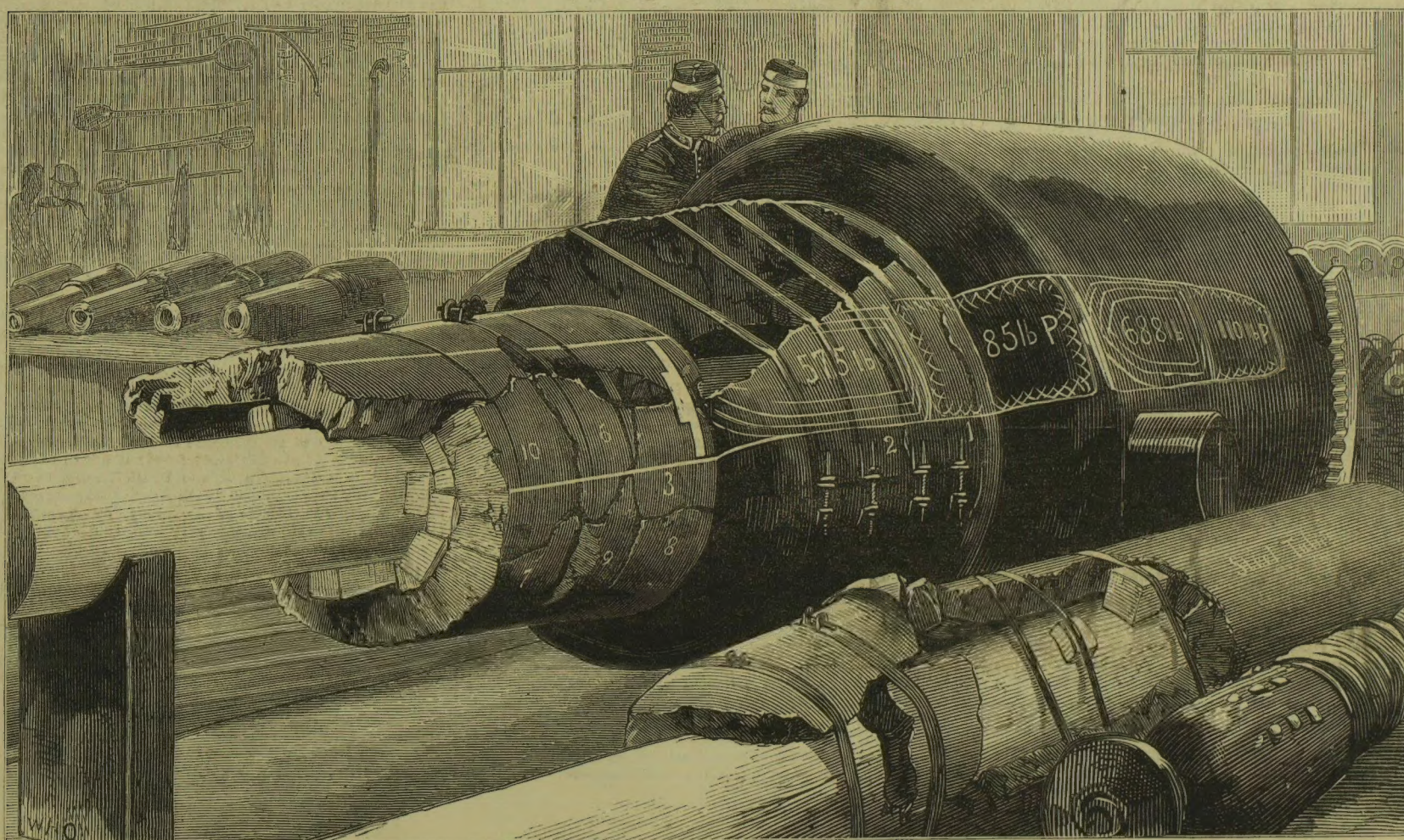


F. Dadd

AN AFGHAN VILLAGE SCENE.—SEE PAGE 592.
FROM A SKETCH BY MR. W. SIMPSON, OUR SPECIAL ARTIST LATE IN AFGHANISTAN.



RECONNAISSANCE SKETCH OF CABUL, SHOWING THE BRITISH CANTONMENTS AT SHERPUR.—SEE PAGE 592.



THE BURST THIRTY-EIGHT TON GUN OF H.M.S. THUNDERER AT WOOLWICH ARSENAL.—SEE PAGE 610.
SHOWING THE FRAGMENTS OF THE GUN JOINED TOGETHER, ALSO THE RELATIVE POSITIONS OF THE TWO CHARGES SUPPOSED TO BE THE CAUSE OF THE DISASTER.



WOVEN DIPLOMA OF THE GLASGOW TECHNICAL COLLEGE WEAVING SCHOOL.

GLASGOW TECHNICAL COLLEGE WEAVING SCHOOL.

The London Clothworkers' Company, who subscribe £150 yearly to the Glasgow Technical College, have received from that institution an example of the woven device which forms the diploma of proficient knowledge and skill presented to the pupils of the Weaving School there. Similar woven fabrics have been produced at Coventry, and occasionally at Paisley; but this is, we believe, the first time one has been issued for such a purpose. It is not only appropriate, but very convenient, as it may either be framed and hung up like a sampler or made up in a roll to be carried about by its possessor. The design, of which we give an illustration, does much credit to Mr. Macaulay and his assistants. We are glad to hear that the institution is working with good success. By the assistance of Mr. France, the secretary, we here give a description of the piece of work displayed in our Engraving. The number of sheets of point paper employed in the drawing which was made for it was forty-two, measuring each 20 by 16 inches, which is equal to 13,440 square inches, and this was requisite to produce the finished fabric, measuring only 15 in. by 8 in. The drawing required 2,600,000 careful touches of the designer's pencil to mark the points at which the warp and weft threads intersect each other in the weaving. There were about 7000 large machine cards employed, on which were the holes necessary to be perforated, in order to enable the design to be woven. The silk yarn made use of was No. 170, through a 7200-thread harness of the Scottish scale, operated on by a Jacquard machine of 1650-cord power. The design is of a characteristic nature, attention being given to the arts connected with cloth manufacture and also engineering. On the entablature are figured the words "Glasgow Technical College Weaving Branch, partly endowed by the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers, London;" underneath which Britannia sits surrounded by figures emblematical of the Arts and Industries, the date at which the school was instituted, and the names of the trustees and officials. Below, in the centre, is the Glasgow coat of arms with motto, and a view of the Clyde at each side; while at the end, on the right, is the figure of a female with a hand-winding wheel, and a weaver at a hand-loom underneath, and on the left another female figure spinning by hand, and below it a representation of the modern power loom. At the base are the words—"Diploma granted to — for excellence, after two sessions' attendance;" the blank to be filled in with the name of the student in embroidered letters.

THE BURST GUN OF H.M.S. THUNDERER.

The disaster which happened in gunnery practice on board H.M.S. Thunderer, on Jan. 2, at the Bay of Ismid, in the Sea of Marmora, has been repeatedly mentioned. One of the two great guns, each weighing thirty-eight tons, which were mounted in the fore turret of that ship, burst in firing with shell at a target, and the muzzle part of the gun was completely blown to pieces. Eleven men, amongst whom were Lieutenant A. H. Coker, R.N., Lieutenant Daniel, Royal Marine Artillery, and Corporal Bolton, with a gunner and seamen, were killed by the explosion, or by fragments of the gun, the shell, and the roof of the gun-turret. Both the burst gun and its companion piece, which remained uninjured, have been brought to Woolwich Arsenal; and the latter is now being subjected, in the Artillery Practice Marshes at Woolwich, to a series of experiments with overloading and irregular loading, which we described last week, for the purpose of ascertaining how such a gun is likely to burst if it be inadvertently or accidentally mismanaged. We now give an illustration of the actual state of the burst gun, as it appears at Woolwich Arsenal, which may be compared with that we presented on Jan. 25, from a drawing by a naval officer, showing the condition of the gun in the shattered and roofless turret of H.M.S. Thunderer. These guns were manufactured by the Elswick Ordnance Company, at Newcastle-on-Tyne, and were mounted with the working and loading machinery, on the hydraulic system, devised by Mr. G. Rendel, of that firm. Each gun was 19½ ft. in length; the length of the bore itself was 16½ ft., and the diameter of the bore was 12 inches, rifled with nine grooves, upon the Woolwich increasing system, the twist being completed in a length equal to thirty-five times the width of the calibre. The guns were constructed on the Fraser system of shrunk wrought-iron coils, having several short single coils and a forged breech-piece. They were fired with a charge of 85 lb. of powder and a projectile weighing 700 lb. It is considered probable that the gun was twice loaded, which naturally caused it to burst.

JUVENILE STORY-BOOKS.

A pile of small volumes, prepared by different publishers for the delectation of young folk has stood by us awaiting the very brief notice which our space can afford. These are not volumes of high price and costly artistic decoration, though some of them, besides their readableness and interest as tales of adventure or of domestic life, are made yet more pleasing by the addition of a few Engravings. We can here do little more than state the nature of their contents and the literary treatment of their subjects, without much attempt at criticism; but, in many instances, the names of well-known writers, already practised in this kind of composition, may be deemed quite sufficient.

Several of the books, moreover, which have a right to precedence in our regard, though very suitable reading for boys and girls, are works of literary value, meriting the attention of the elders whose taste may be cultivated in the direction of imaginative and romantic fancy. *The Legend of King Arthur*, compiled and arranged by J. T. K. (G. Routledge and Sons), cannot be dismissed as a mere child's book; it is meat for reflecting men and women, equally with Tennyson's "Idylls of the King," and being dedicated, by his permission, to the Poet Laureate, seems a fitting companion for his noble cycle of heroic poems. The prose narrative composed by old Sir Thomas Malory, in King Edward IV.'s reign, from the ancient French fabliaux which embodied the Celtic myths of Wales, Cornwall, and Brittany, has furnished to J. T. K., as it did to Tennyson, materials for the tale of genuine chivalry, raised and refined by the purer humane and Christian feeling of our more enlightened age. The execution of this work, the arrangement of the plot and incidents, and the simple, lucid, energetic style, deserve high commendation. The illustrative designs have some artistic merit, and the little volume is elegantly bound.

Not quite such full praise can fairly be awarded to the *Tales from Ariosto* (C. Kegan Paul and Co.), in which "a Lady" has recast, for the reading of children, the ingenious Italian poet's wondrous stories, before told more roughly by his compatriot Boiardo, concerning the paladins of Charlemagne, Orlando and Ruggiero and Rinaldo, the fair Angelica, the valiant maiden Bradamante, the garden-city of the enchantress Alcina, the hippogriff steed, the sea-monster, the magic shield, and other marvels of antique romance. These stories are less noble and elevated in moral tone, and have really much less dramatic interest, than those of the Arthurian legend. The illustrations, only three in number, are copied from designs in an old Venetian edition of Ariosto, dated 1583.

Mr. Moncreu Conway, an American scholar and preacher settled in London, who has already won the favourable regard of the public here, contributes a delightful *Necklace of Stories* (Chatto and Windus), short tales of original fiction, expatiating freely in the realm of Faery, but inspired with lovely and lofty sentiments, to be impressed, we will hope, on the hearts of many thoughtful children. "The Invisible Queen" is a dream-like allegory of a kind of Utopia supposed to have grown up on the coast of Virginia, in the old pre-colonial times of North American adventure and imperfect exploration. It is a beautiful conception, and is designed to teach a great moral lesson. The volume is furnished with twenty-five illustrations by Mr. W. J. Hennessy, and is handsomely printed.

The Right Hon. E. Knatchbull-Hugessen, M.P., sometime an Under-Secretary of State, continues to exert his lively fancy in *Other Stories*, which is the title of his new volume (published by Routledge). These are "The Cab of Murlingford," "Prince Marafete and the Bilberry Men," the "Legend of Dderfel," the "History of a Cat," and, last but not least or worst, "The Grannies of Giddyhorn." They are certainly very amusing, and that is as much as will be demanded by many juvenile readers. The engravings are drawn by Ernest Griset with his accustomed drollery.

A new edition of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, by Mrs. Beecher Stowe, with an introductory history of the authorship, the occasion and motive, the publication, in March, 1852, and the moral, social, and political effects of that powerful work, the herald of the abolition of negro slavery in America, has been issued by Messrs. G. Routledge and Sons. Mr. George Bullen, of the British Museum, supplies a "Biographical Account," which gives the titles and dates of all the editions, translations, important reviews, and essays or other published writings founded upon this celebrated story. There are, in the British Museum Library, thirty-five editions of the complete text, eight abridgments or adaptations, and nineteen versions in

foreign languages, besides "keys," separate books on the subject, and about fifty review or magazine articles. We suppose the number of copies sold would amount to hundreds of thousands. This edition is beautifully printed, and the pages are ornamented with a red line round their sides; but the woodcuts are scarcely worthy of their place in what should be the standard edition.

Three popular French authors of books for the entertainment of the juvenile mind, rendered into English by competent translators, are presented in fair volumes, with numerous engravings, by Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston, Searle, and Rivington. *The Begum's Fortune*, by Jules Verne, is translated by Mr. W. H. G. Kingston; it is not, as might be supposed, an Eastern or Indian tale—one of pagodas and palanquins and gold mohurs—but one of a great iron and steel factory, created by a wonder-working scientific German, in the Oregon territory of the American Far West. To this is appended, in the same volume, M. Jules Verne's idea of the Mutiny of the Bounty among the South Sea Islands. *The Serpent Charmer*, by Louis Rousselet, author of an elaborate work on the Courts of the Indian Native Princes, is translated by Madame de Hauteville. M. Lucien Biart, whose "Adventures of a Young Naturalist" and "Rambles in the New World" are not forgotten, has got his seafaring story, *An Involuntary Voyage*, translated by Mrs. Cashel Hoey and Mr. J. Lillie. These will no doubt find acceptance in due proportion to merit.

A very old friend of ours, *Sir Edward Seaward's Narrative of his Shipwreck*, which we used to like next to "Robinson Crusoe," is reprinted by Messrs. Routledge. The authoress of this very interesting work of fiction in the guise of autobiography was Miss Jane Porter, whose genius is here shown even more decidedly than in "The Scottish Chiefs" and "Thaddeus of Warsaw." Those tales were too obviously the offspring of an incidental vein of sentimental fancy opened by the example of the Waverley Novels. In this masterly product of sustained invention, she had free scope for her original powers; and we hope that she will yet gain a large number of appreciating readers, both young and old, by the reappearance of "Sir Edward Seaward" nearly thirty years after her death. The hero, accompanied by his wife, has to live on a desolate island of the ocean by a variety of ingenious shifts; but their idyllic happiness, like that of Milton's Adam and Eve in Paradise, is delightfully portrayed.

A tale of Zululand, not the first or second that has been written since Cetewayo was heard of among us, is *Hendricks the Hunter; or, The Border Farm*, by Mr. W. H. G. Kingston (Hodder and Stoughton). The author has long since proved his ability to cater, in this style of narrative, for the entertainment of youth. His compilation of *Notable Voyages*, from Columbus to Captain Parry (Routledge), is what we should prefer to give our son or nephew, as we think real histories of that exciting kind much better than fabricated exploits and adventures. Of Captain Mayne Reid, in like manner, who has produced so many books for boys, there is nothing fresh to be remarked concerning his literary talent, which is displayed anew in *Gaspar the Gaucho; A Tale of the Gran Chaco* (Routledge).

Warlike adventure in the military and naval services has been utilised by several of the practised story-tellers for the entertainment of boys; thus, in *The Young Buglers* (Griffith and Farran), by Mr. G. A. Henty, the deeds of the Peninsular Campaign are recited, with the supposed participation in them of two young gentlemen, who have run away from an English private school. *The Roll of the Drum*, by R. Mounteney Jephson, with five short stories in one volume, keeps alive the fond tradition of martial glory pretty much to the same tune. Thackeray's "Chronicle of the Drum" is far more correctly adapted, we think, to the truth upon that subject. On the other hand, *The Reverse of the Shield*, by Augusta Marryat (F. Warne and Co.) exhibits very well, in connection with the imaginary experiences of an English boy in France, during the war of Strasburg and Lorraine and the siege of Paris, all the miserable and shameful woes inflicted upon mankind by this criminal pastime of the Emperors and Kings and other patrons of servile soldiery among the plundered nations. For so it still goes on, although, as Cowper truly says,—

War is a game that, were their subjects wise,
Kings would not play at.

The volume by Miss Rowse, entitled *St. Nicholas Eve, and Other Tales* (Griffith and Farran), contains a good store of interesting and wholesome fiction. *Brave Janet*, by Alice Lee, is the story of a little girl's trials and moral victories; and this, with "The Children's Trusts," in the same volume (Sampson

Low and Co.), will be an excellent New-Year's gift for any of the real little girls there are in the world. It is safe also to recommend, for little ones of seven or eight, *Rough the Terrier*, by Emily Brodie (J. F. Shaw and Co.), or the story of Pussy's frolics; *Only Five*, with illustrations by T. Pym, which may be had of the same publisher; also, *Judy*; or, *Only a Little Girl*, by "Yotty" Osborn; these little books are very nice, pretty, and amusing.

OBITUARY.

SIR J. NIAS.

Sir Joseph Nias, K.C.B., Admiral (retired), R.N., died at 56, Montagu-square, on the 16th inst. This gallant officer, son of Joseph Nias, Esq., by Ann Cropper, his wife, was far advanced in years. His professional services date back from a distant period. He was in the first three Polar Expeditions, and took part in the Chinese War. He had three medals, and received the insignia of Knight Commander of the Bath in 1867. Admiral Nias married, in 1855, Caroline Isabella, only daughter of John Laing, Esq., of Montagu-square.

MAJOR CURTEIS.

Edward Barrett Curteis, Esq., of Leasam, Sussex, J.P. and D.L., formerly Major 7th Dragoon Guards, died on the 14th inst., aged seventy-four. He was second son of Edward Jeremiah Curteis, Esq., of Windmill Hill and Knells, M.P. for Sussex, by Mary, his wife, daughter and heiress of the Rev. Stephen Barrett, Rector of Rothfield, Kent, and descended from a family of Curteis which possessed property in Kent as early as the thirteenth century. Major Curteis was elected M.P. for Rye in 1832, and represented that borough in the Liberal interest until 1837. He married, first, 1837, Charlotte Lydia, youngest daughter of Thomas Law Hodges, Esq., of Hemsted, M.P., and secondly, in 1841, Frances, daughter of William Kenrick, Esq., M.P., and leaves issue by each marriage.

The deaths have also been announced of—

James Archibald Campbell, Esq., of Inverawe, J.P. and D.L., at Rugby, on the 9th inst., aged seventy-one.

General Richard Cornwallis Moore, C.B., R.A., in Hyde Park-terrace, in his seventy-third year, a distinguished Artillery officer in the Burmese and Chinese wars.

The Very Rev. James Torry, Dean of St. Andrew's, Minister of the Scottish Episcopal Church at Cupar Angus, Forfarshire, for fifty-nine years, on the 15th inst. He was son of Bishop Torry, of St. Andrew's and Dunkeld, and had attained the age of eighty-nine.

John Inglis Jones, Esq., of Derry Ormond, in the county of Cardigan, J.P. and D.L., High Sheriff 1851, formerly in the Royal Dragoons and Royal Horse Guards. He was born in 1829, and married, 1860, Lady Elizabeth Vaughan, daughter of the Earl of Lisburne.

William Cosmo Gordon, Esq., of Fyvie and Marculter, eldest son of the late Charles Gordon, Esq., of Fyvie, and grandson of the Hon. Alexander Gordon Lord Rockville and Anne Countess of Dumfries and Stair, on the 18th inst. at Fyvie Castle.

Annette-Maria, Lady Hesketh, widow of Sir Thomas Hesketh, fourth Baronet, of Rufford Hall, in the county of Lancaster, died at Torquay, on the 17th inst. She was daughter of the late Robert Bomford, Esq., of Rahinstown House, in the county of Meath, and was married April 3, 1824. Her only daughter, Maria Harriett, married Sir Lawrence Palk, Bart., and her only son was the late Sir Thomas George Fermor-Hesketh, Bart.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

The will (dated Feb. 23, 1877) with a codicil (dated May 1, 1879) of Mr. John Remington Mills, late of Kingswood Lodge, Tunbridge Wells, who died on the 22nd ult., was proved on the 11th inst. by Joseph Trueman Mills, the son, John Morley, and Herbert Dalton, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £1,200,000. The testator leaves to his wife, Mrs. Louisa Matilda Mills, £500, and all his pictures, plate, books, linen, wine, furniture, household effects, horses and carriages absolutely, and Kingswood Lodge and the income of £120,000 for life; to Harriett Ballard an annuity of £40 for life; to his executors, Mr. Morley and Mr. Dalton, £200 each; to his household servants one year's wages; to the Rev. James Irving £300 per annum for three years from the date of his (testator's) decease, if he shall so long remain Minister of Albion Chapel, Tunbridge Wells; upon trust for his daughter, Mrs. Matilda Swinburne, £42,000, and an additional sum of £10,000 for each child she may have at the time of his death; and the residue of his real and personal estate to his said son, Joseph Trueman Mills. The deceased was a magistrate for Middlesex, Hertfordshire, and Kent, and sat in Parliament, in the Liberal interest, for the borough of Wycombe from 1862 down to the general election of 1868.

The will (dated May 23, 1879) of Edward William Cox, Serjeant-at-Law, late of Moat Mount, in the parish of Hendon, and of No. 36, Russell-square, who died on the 24th ult., was proved on the 11th inst. by Irwin Edward Bainbridge Cox and Harding de Fonblanque Cox, the sons, and Henry Bennett Edwards, the son-in-law, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £200,000. The testator devises his Moat Mount property, subject to certain rights of residence given to his wife and family, to the use of his son Irwin Edward Bainbridge Cox for life, with remainder to his first and every other son successively according to seniority in tail male, and the manor of Taunton Dean, Somerset, is devised to his said son on similar uses; his Dartmoor and Ashburton estates, Devonshire, are divided into three parts, one of which is devised to each of his two sons, and the other part to his daughter, Mrs. Ada Edwards, respectively, in tail general. The testator's residence in Russell-square, with the furniture and effects, he leaves to his daughter, Mrs. Edwards; and there are legacies to his wife, children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, domestic servants, gardener, foreman, manager of printing office, secretary, and another. The residue of the realty, all his newspaper property, including the *Field*, *Law Times*, *Queen*, *Exchange and Mart*, *County Courts Chronicle*, *The Country*, and *Royal Exchange*, which the trustees are empowered to manage and carry on, and the residue of his personal estate is to be held upon trust, after setting aside 10 per cent of the income as a reserve fund, and 20 per cent to pay off any charges or liabilities on his properties, to pay one fifth of the income to his wife, Mrs. Rosalinda Alicia Cox, for life, if she shall so long remain his widow; and as to the ultimate residue, one third is to go to each of his three children. The deceased mentions that he was a member of the Funeral Reform Association, and he desires his funeral to be as plain as possible, that only the members of his family should follow, and that mourning be not worn more than six months.

Yesterday week Mr. Cavendish Bentinck, M.P., Judge-Advocate-General, M.P., opened a cocoa and coffee house at Whitehaven, and delivered an address.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications relating to this department of the Paper should be addressed to the Editor, and have the word "Chess" written on the envelope.
F. H. B. (Huntingdon).—Thanks for your note. As there was no play, there is no reason for noticing the affair.
We have received ten shillings from Mr. R. Vincent of Dursley in aid of the fund for the relief of the late Captain Evans's widow. We take this opportunity of reminding our readers that subscriptions may be sent to Mr. Parkinson, Rock Cottage, Ventnor, J. Tucker, Bolteridge, Copiaino, C. F. Ansell (Malaga), Emile Fran, and P. le Page.
CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1867 received from B. C. M. S. W. Scott, R. Shindler, J. Tucker, Bolteridge, Copiaino, C. F. Ansell (Malaga), Emile Fran, and P. le Page.
CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1868 received from P. le Page, J. Tucker, Dabbshill, E. L. G. F. A. Bright, and Hereward.

CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1869 received from H. B. P. le Page, Pops, W. Scott, An Old Hand, G. Fosbrooke, R. Shindler, Julia Short, H. W. Trenchard, D. W. Kell, E. L. G. Dabbshill, A. J. H. (Rugby), Gateshead-on-Tyne, D. Templeton, H. Brune, L. Sharswood, A. R. Bolteridge, Little Woman, Norman Rumbelow, Ben Nevie, W. Leeson, Fred West, C. F. Jones, Lilly and Conrade, G. L. Mayne, Nerina, A. Snellen (Almeida), B. L. Dyke, Lulu, Orazio, R. Jessop, E. Elsbury, E. H. V. Cant, Copiaino, Elsie, R. Gray, W. S. Leest, Problematicus, F. A. Bright, T. Barrington, H. Barrett, N. Warner, E. P. Vulliamy, Shadforth, F. P. Bishopstowe, Hereward, J. E. M. P. Caracacus, N. Fish, Tobias, W. B. Wood, W. M. Curtis, John B. J. R. Dow, A. H. Empson, James Dobson, L. Noren (Sweden), W. Hoskin, Edith Botwright, and O. Wolter.
NOTE.—Solutions received since the 17th inst., will be acknowledged in our next issue.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 1868.

WHITE. BLACK.
1. B to K 4th K takes B*
2. Kt to B 3rd (dis. ch) K to B 4th
3. Kt mates.

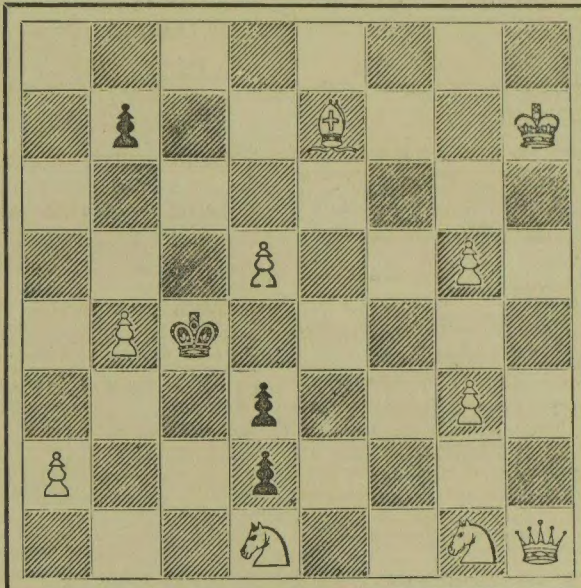
*If Black play 1. P to Q 7th, or P to B 7th, or P to B 3rd or 4th, White continues.
2. Kt to B 6th.

PROBLEM No. 1871.

A Competing Position in the British Problem Association Tourney.

Motto—"Ben ti voglio."

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

CHESS-NUTS FOR CHRISTMAS.

As we do not believe that any of our readers are superior to the attractive frivolities of the present season, we purpose, this Christmas week, devoting our space to a notice of the lighter phases of chess. Although it is commonly asserted, by persons imperfectly acquainted with the game, that the literature of chess is a dry record of practical play and more or less difficult problems, the truth is that there is no other pastime which has produced so extensive a literature of the imaginative or fanciful, as well as practical, kind. In what is called "practical play" the imagination of the player is largely and constantly exercised in considering the combinations of which the pieces—his own and his adversary's—are susceptible, and, comparing small things to great, an original chess problem is as truly a work of the imagination as a sonnet of Shakespeare's. The antiquity of the game and the uncertainty of its origin, while offering the freest scope for the imagination of the student, cannot fail to excite it, and its progress from the Closet to the Court, thence to the Camp, and in recent times to the School and the Workshop, is a romance, to which a modern sensational novel is a sort of poor relation. Nor is the literature of chess deficient in humour. The style of the earlier writers upon the subject was too heroic in some cases, and too philosophic in others, for levity of any kind; their works are mainly composed of hypothetical accounts of the invention of chess or highly-coloured reflections upon its educational influences; but in our own day Mortimer Collins, George Walker, and Captain Kennedy each sought the aid of chess in delineations of character, whose wit and humour were readily recognised outside the community of chessplayers. It is, of course, not to be expected that a rich vein of humour will be found pervading a treatise upon the openings or a game played over the board, although it is not impossible that some humourist of a future generation may produce a comic problem, for chessplayers in all ages have mostly chosen that branch of the game for the display of fancy. The compositions of the early writers abound with conditional mates by specified pieces or pawns on specified squares, mating in a fixed number of moves, "neither more nor less;" and one relieved himself of much trouble in the construction of problems by stipulating that the attacking pieces should not be subject to capture! The name of this ingenious composer is, or rather was, for he is "gone from among us," Paulus Guarinus, and he left to posterity a manuscript, dated 1512, containing seventy-six positions, or problems, many of which have appended to them the stipulation referred to above. Here is one of them as a specimen:—

White: K at K B 6th, Kt at K B 7th, P at K Kt 6th.
Black: K at K Kt square.
White to play and mate in two moves, White's pieces being inviolable—or free from capture.

The solution is 1. P to Kt 7th, K to R 2nd; 2. P to Kt 8th, promoted to a Bishop. Mates.

Amid the chaff of this author's collection, setting aside the positions taken from Lucena (1495), there is, symbolically, a grain of wheat in the following puzzle:—

Place the White Knights at Q R 8th and Q Kt 8th.

Black: Q R 3rd, Q B 3rd.
Move the Knights—first the White, say, and then the Black, alternately, and in four moves of each Knight make the Black and White exchange places. The Knights are not to be moved outside the square of squares, the corners of which they occupy in the position described above.

We leave this little puzzle to our readers, and any solutions received shall be acknowledged in the usual way.

In comparatively modern times, the fancy of the chessplayer has run wild in the construction of problems, curious either in form or shape or in the conditions of the solution. Among the category of problems so fanciful and wonderfully made, is Lichtenstein's "Chess Monument," in memoriam of the inventor of chess:—

White: K at Q B 2nd, Q at Q R 1, R's at K sq and K Kt sq, Kt's at Q 5th and Q 6th, B at Q B 4th, and P at Q 2nd.
Black: K at Q B sq, P's at Q B 2nd, 4th, and 6th, Q 3rd and 5th.

White is to mate with the Pawn in seven moves, without capturing any of the Black Pawns.
The following is the solution, in which White's moves only are given, Black's being all forced:—1. R to Kt 8th (ch), 2. R to K 7th (ch), 3. B to Kt 6th (ch), 4. B to B 4th (ch), 5. B to Q 5th (ch), 6. Q to B 3rd (ch), 7. P to Q 3rd. Mate!

Lichtenstein was a very prolific author in this style, the book from which the above is taken ("Der Schachkünstler," Berlin, 1847) containing many of a similar kind, as the "Gordian Knot," "The Comet," "Goliath's Sling," &c.; but, so far as fecundity is concerned, and not in beauty of conception, he has been surpassed by a composer of a more recent date, M. Schoumoff, of St. Petersburg. The last-named author has published within the last decade a work which opens with an alphabet of chess problems, the pieces on each diagram representing the letters of the alphabet from A to Z, and follows this feat by a series of symbolic problems embracing such very diverse subjects as an episode in the career of Don Giovanni and the Eastern Question.

It will interest everyone in the present day to see a Russian chessplayer solve the Eastern Question in his own way—on the chess-board. In the following position Russia is represented by the White forces and the Turk by the Black:—

White: K at K R sq, Q at K Kt 3rd, R's at K B 7th and Q Kt 5th, Kts at K Kt 4th and Q B sq, B at Q R 4th; Pawns at K R 3rd, K Kt 2nd, K B 3rd, Q B 2nd and 3rd.

Black: K at Q B 3rd, Q at Q B 2nd, R at K 5th, Kts at K sq and Q sq, B at K R sq, Pawns at Q 5th and Q B 4th. White to play, and mate in five moves.

Solution: 1. P takes R (Russia, it will be observed, begins by taking a Castle, a very effective stroke in chess and in war), P to B 5th; 2. R to Kt 4th (dis. ch), K to B 4th; 3. R takes Q (ch) (another effective stroke; the Grand Turk's Consort captured!); Kt takes R; Q takes Kt (ch), Kt to Q B 3rd (one of the great Powers interposing!); 5. Q takes K—check-mate. The pieces on the left now form a cross.

In these imitations upon the chess-board of the strategic operations of actual warfare the Russians have excelled; and the best of the kind is a game composed by Petroff to illustrate the brief campaign which ended in the surrender of the famous Hungarian leader Gergely. It will form a fitting conclusion to this gossiping notice of the Curiosities of Chess. The White pieces represent the Russians, the Black ones the Hungarians, and the Black Queen is supposed to be the Hungarian leader.

BLACK. WHITE.
1. P to K 4th P to K 4th
2. Kt to K B 3rd Kt to Q B 3rd
3. B to B 4th B to B 4th
4. P to Q B 3rd Kt to K B 3rd
5. P to Q 4th P takes P
6. P to K 5th P to Q 4th
7. B to Q Kt 5th Kt to K 5th
8. P takes P B to Kt 5th (ch)
9. K to K 2nd

The campaign was commenced with the most regular movements on both sides; but the Russians should now have posed the Bishop at Q Kt 3rd.

Gergely here succeeds in astonishing Europe by a manoeuvre perfectly novel and unique.

9. K to K 2nd

This unexpected manoeuvre so disconcerted Gergely that he surrendered at discretion. The notes are by M. Petroff, who adds that Gergely (the Black Queen) may be saved, but that he cannot avoid the loss of the campaign, and appends an analysis of the position in support of the argument.

FINE ARTS.

The forthcoming Winter Exhibition at the Royal Academy will be less extensive than the last. There will be no drawings or miniatures. One of the features of the collection will be a number of works by Holbein, all the Academy could borrow, but not comprising some of the more important works of the master which have been already exhibited at Burlington House.

Messrs. J. E. Hodgson and H. H. Armistead have been elected Royal Academicians from the grade of Associate.

The Queen has purchased the painting in oil from nature by Miss C. M. Wood, one of the students of the Female School of Arts, Queen-square, which won the gold medal in the National Competition.

The National Portrait Gallery has recently acquired the following works:—Portraits of Catherine of Braganza, by Huysman; Bolinbroke, by Rigaud; Mrs. Anne S. Damer (from the Anderson collection); Thomas Grenville, by Mangini; Mrs. Sarah Austin, painted and presented by Lady Arthur Russell; and busts of Sir Robert Peel and W. Etty, R.A., by Mr. Noble, bought at the artist's sale.

A so-called Vasa Murrhina Exhibition has been opened at 294, Regent-street, consisting of specimens of the works in ornamental glass of M. D'Humy, the winner of two medals in the recent Paris Exhibition, and whose productions there were much admired, particularly for the skill displayed in overcoming the difficulty of introducing gold and other metals into the body of the glass—an art which M. D'Humy has carried much farther than one sees in the Venetian "aventurin," tesserae, and beads, and the production of the Byzantines. The effect obtained by the introduction of the metals is rich, though purists in taste may prefer the soft transparency and sparkling play of glass alone, coloured and white. The specimens are widely varied and not a few are good in style, though their limited number does not admit of the endless variety of fanciful devices presented in Venetian glass. A company is formed called "The Aurora Glass Company," for manufacturing M. D'Humy's glass in England; the glass itself may therefore be expected to be of purer body than that produced abroad. The assumption, however, that this incorporation of the metals with glass is a realisation of the famous "murrhine vases" of antiquity seems to be groundless, and to have hardly so plausible a foundation as the application of the term by old writers to the description of glass largely made at Murano, and called by the Germans "schmelz." The problem as to what was real murrhine has never been solved. But it is not improbable that the natural murrhine was a variety of agate containing tints of purple or red; and fragments of glass have been found at Rome and elsewhere of a very beautiful transparent purple mixed with veins of opaque white, which answers to Pliny's description of the colour of the vases for which such fabulous sums were paid by Roman connoisseurs.

It is stated that the promoters of the Ecclesiastical Art Exhibition, to be held in London next summer, have procured a site in a central position, and intend to erect thereon a building of an ecclesiastical character from plans prepared by Mr. J. P. Seddon.

Canon Greenwell, who has caused so many of the British barrows to be excavated, has presented to the British Museum the large and important collection of urns and other antiquities formed by him during his researches in no less than 234 of these barrows. The discovery of a great part of the collection is recorded in his work, "British Barrows," published by the Clarendon Press in 1877.

On the 18th inst. died, at the advanced age of eighty-five, Mr. Henry Warren, for many years president, and, since his retirement and the succession of Mr. Louis Haghe, honorary president, of the Institute of Painters in Water Colours. On the same day at midnight died Mr. George Edward Hering, the landscape-painter in oil, aged seventy-four.

The death is also announced of M. Jacob Jacobs, aged sixty-seven, the well-known Belgian marine and landscape painter, for many years a professor in the Antwerp Academy.

On the 18th inst. died, aged eighty-four, Mr. George Raphael Ward, the miniature-painter, son of James Ward, R.A., the animal-painter, and father of Mrs. E. M. Ward.

On the 19th inst., at the great age of ninety, died Mr. Dominic Colnaghi, one of the founders of the eminent—and historic, as it may be called—firm of print publishers and art-dealers in Pall-mall East; now represented, we believe, in chief by Mr. Mac Kay.

Sir Brydges P. Henniker, Secretary to the President of the Local Government Board, has been appointed to succeed Major George Graham, who retires from the public service, after a service of thirty-seven years, as Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages for England and Wales.

Dean Lacy was on the 18th inst. consecrated Roman Catholic Bishop of Middlesbrough by Cardinal Manning in the Cathedral of St. Mary. Dr. Cornthwaite, Bishop of Leeds, and Dr. O'Reilly, Bishop of Liverpool, were the assistant Bishops at the consecration. The newly-formed diocese comprises the North and East Ridings of York, which have been severed from the Beverley diocese. At a luncheon which was afterwards held in the school-rooms, the Cardinal presided, supported by Mr. Isaac Wilson, M.P., Mr. Isaac Lowthian Bell, M.P., the Mayor of Middlesbrough, and others.

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